

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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THE TIMES

No. 65,248

SATURDAY APRIL 22 1995

Pay package 'absurd and insulting'

Police chief heads revolt on contracts

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S most influential chief constable is in open revolt against new terms of employment for top police officers that are being imposed by the Government.

John Hoddinott, chief constable of Hampshire and president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, has written to the leader of every other force to say he will refuse a new fixed-term appointment and performance-related pay because they could threaten his independence.

Mr Hoddinott says he believes that fixed-term contracts could lead to allegations of political influence and damage the public's perception of the police. Details of the letter, which has gone to 41 fellow officers, have also been passed to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

Mr Hoddinott wrote: "I joined the police out of a sense of public service... recognising the financial disadvantage in doing so. Had I wanted the principles of the marketplace, I would not have made that decision."

Like all officers, he had taken an oath to the Queen and to uphold the law. "I need no other device to ensure that I do that duty to the best of my ability. The notion that I will work harder or more effectively because of performance-related pay is absurd and objectionable, if not insulting."

Mr Hoddinott accepted that chief constables should be liable to dismissal for bad

behaviour or performance, but he objected to the new formula laid down by the Home Office. In particular, he was concerned that every time officers took controversial decisions there would be suggestions they were being influenced by performance pay awards or by negotiations for a new contract.

Mr Hoddinott's letter will be an embarrassment to Mr Howard, who has toned down many of the Sheehy committee's recommendations on police pay and conditions. He has also gone out of his way to soothe police anxiety over reforms and equipment.

Three other chief officers are understood to be opposed to the contracts on constitutional grounds, but at least one has indicated that he will take a contract. A number of police authorities are also saying

that they will not bring in the new contracts because they cannot afford them.

Under the terms of last year's Police and Magistrates Courts Act, future chief constables and their assistants will be given contracts for between four and ten years and paid according to the population of their area. They will then receive up to 7.5 per cent more, depending on their performance.

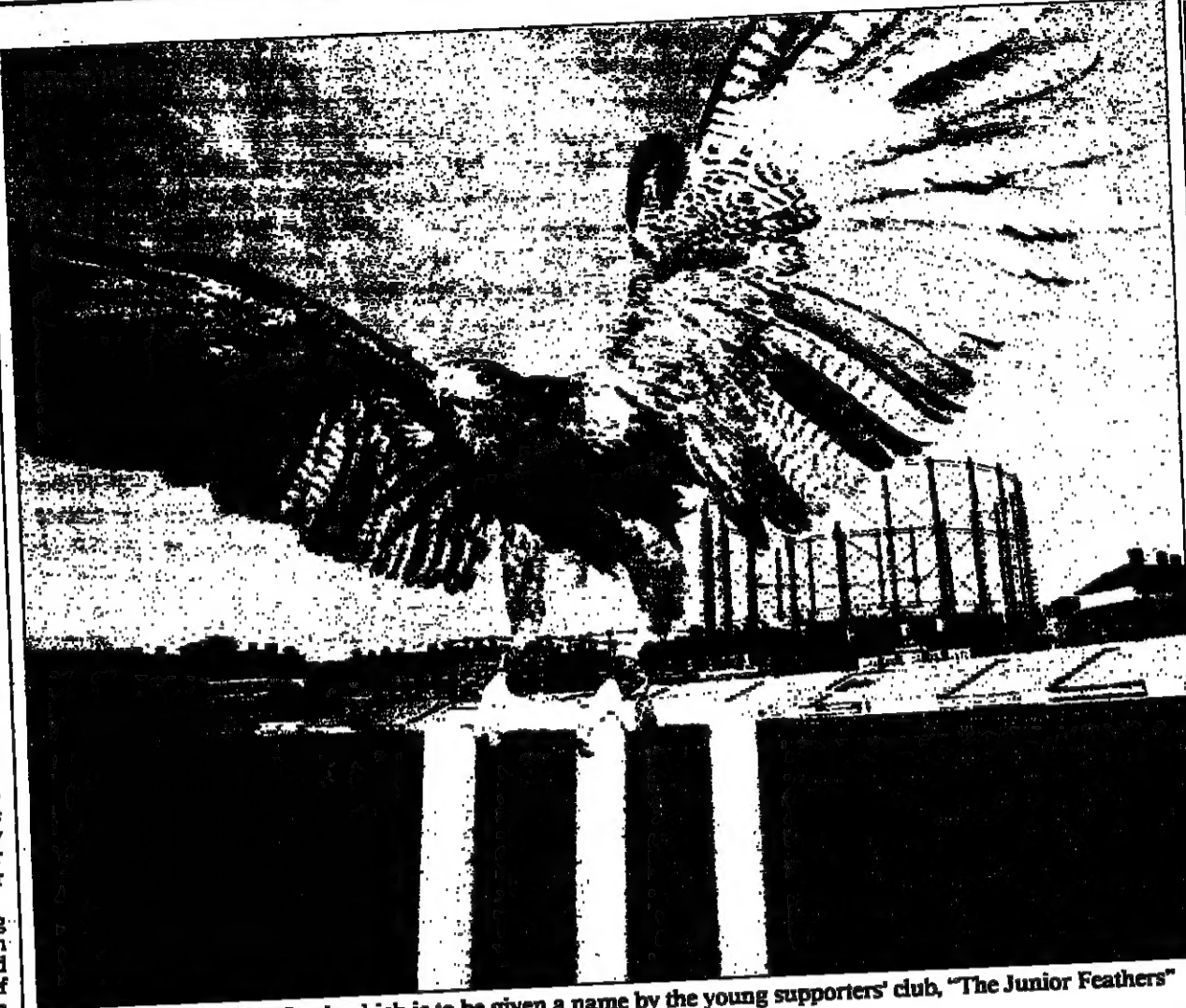
Basic pay for officers taking the appointments ranges from £50,903 to £86,988 for the head of a big urban force. Chief officers already in position may be offered fixed-term contracts or be paid from a second, lower scale of between £58,002 and £82,944.

Mr Hoddinott stands to lose up to £12,000 a year if he refuses a contract. In his letter he said: "I value the operational independence in the office of constable greatly. It will be weakened - or just as dangerous, appear to be weakened - by the fixed-term appointments, particularly as the appointment renews renewal."

At 50, Mr Hoddinott is regarded as one of the brightest of his generation of officer. He began his career in London and was responsible for cleaning up both the obscene publications and drugs squads. In 1984, he investigated possible security lapses at the Conservative Party conference when the IRA bombed the Grand Hotel in Brighton.

Hoddinott fears threat to his independence

be an embarrassment to Mr Howard, who has toned down many of the Sheehy committee's recommendations on police pay and conditions. He has also gone out of his way to soothe police anxiety over reforms and equipment.



The Oval's Harris's Hawk which is to be given a name by the young supporters' club, 'The Junior Feathers'

Teachers halt psychologists' 'thug's charter' for boy of 10

By BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A BOY aged ten who was suspended for terrorising a school was to be allowed back into lessons under strict conditions until teachers objected.

Under a draft contract he agreed not to strike classmates more than seven times a week, not to disobey teachers more than seven times or swear at them more than three times, and not to swear at other pupils more than six times.

The proposed agreement, which would have rewarded

the boy with extra time playing computer games at home, was part of a "positive behavioural reinforcement strategy" agreed with educational psychologists. But teachers at the boy's state school in Northumberland forced a rewriting of the deal after protesting to the head that it amounted to a thug's charter.

The episode was cited by the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers yesterday as it launched a campaign to protect teachers from the

growing threat of attacks by pupils. The union said 16,000 assaults were reported annually and demanded that pupils with a violent history be identified to teachers under health and safety regulations.

Jared Johnson, Northumberland, said the boy was suspended after he refused to obey teachers 16 times in a week, swore at them seven times, hit fellow pupils 14 times and swore at them 12 times. He said the original contract was designed to end

Continued on page 2, col 5

Secret weapon waits in wings at The Oval

A HAWK has been hired by The Oval to stop pigeons interrupting play. The tan coloured bird with a 3ft wingspan will start work tomorrow at Surrey's Benson and Hedges cup match against Ireland.

Pigeons are an increasing problem at the ground, where they often distract players.

Bob Wyatt, England's oldest surviving Test cricketer, died yesterday aged 93. Wyatt captained Warwickshire and Worcestershire and England.

Obituary, page 21
Tributes, page 44



Four Caribbean honeymoons to win. Details and today's token page 42



Benito sat here: auctioning Mussolini's Alfa Romeo page 6



£3 off a WH Smith CD Weekend, page 6

Lawyer in sex case accused

Eileen Pembroke, the solicitor who has been accused of "outing" the Law Society's vice-president over sexual harassment, is being taken to an industrial tribunal by a former secretary alleging racial and sexual discrimination.

Ms Pembroke, whose campaign for the Law Society presidency highlights women's issues, denies the claim. Page 3

Drinking your health in herbs

The Prince of Wales has joined a swiftly growing market with his soft drinks for adults. New brands are being launched every day by companies concocting herbal brews for the dinner party as cola begins to pall. Page 8

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FBI arrests key suspect in Oklahoma bombing

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND TOM RHODES IN OKLAHOMA CITY.

THE FBI late yesterday arrested one of the two prime suspects in Wednesday's Oklahoma City bombing, US Justice Department sources said.

The arrest in the small town of Perry, 60 miles north of Oklahoma City, came after the FBI issued composite pictures of two white men on Thursday night. It was deluged with more than 2,000 telephone calls offering numerous leads.

No details of the arrested man were immediately available, but investigators were said to be moving away from the idea that the bombing was the work of Middle East terrorists. The FBI's break came with the discovery at the bomb site of a fragment bearing the serial number of the van in which the bomb was planted.

The investigators were able to establish that the van came from Elliott's Body Shop, a Ryder rental outlet in Junction City, Kansas, 275 miles north of Oklahoma City. They were told it was rented on Monday by two men using aliases, who paid an \$80 (£50) deposit but were not asked to produce drivers' licences because they looked like soldiers from a base near by.

The van was 24ft long, the largest available. Weldon Kennedy, the FBI official in charge of the investigation, said that the bomb was made of fertiliser and fuel oil and weighed "several thousand pounds", much larger than first thought. He confirmed that the FBI was studying damaged film from a surveillance camera on a nearby building, but refused to say what it showed.

The bombers' motive remains a mystery, but there was speculation that they could be white supremacists, drug traffickers seeking retribution against the Drug Enforcement Agency, which had an office in the bombed building, or members of the Branch Davidian sect whose compound in Waco, Texas, was stormed by the FBI two years ago.

Lives torn apart, page 14

Death toll rises to 57

The official death toll from the Oklahoma blast stood at 57 last night, with more than 200 missing. Nobody has been brought out alive for more than 24 hours and rescuers, who have searched three-quarters of the wrecked building, hold out little hope of finding any more survivors.

Thatcher to receive Order of Garter

By ALAN HAMILTON

BARONESS THATCHER, seventh and longest-serving prime minister of the Queen's reign, is to receive the Order of the Garter, the highest decoration in the Queen's gift. Buckingham Palace announced last night.

Lady Thatcher, who said she was "deeply honoured and absolutely delighted", becomes one of the most decorated former prime ministers of the century, having already been granted with a life peerage and the exclusive Order of Merit. She joins Sir Edmund Hillary, the New Zealand mountaineer and conqueror of Everest in 1953, as one of two new members of the Garter, who will be installed at a ceremony at Windsor Castle in June.

Although not automatic, the Garter has been bestowed on most post-war prime ministers in their retirement, including Sir Winston Churchill.

Earl Antler, the Earl of Avon, Lords Wilson and Callaghan, and Sir Edward Heath. The former Harold Macmillan became instead a hereditary peer as Earl of Stockton, and Lord Home is a Knight of the Thistle, the Garter's Scottish equivalent.

Several foreign monarchs are members of the Garter, but ordinary women members were admitted only in 1987 when the Queen decided that the previously male preserve should be opened to women. The first non-royal female member was Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk, who was installed in 1990. Garter knights are restricted to 24 at any one time.

Lady Thatcher and Sir Edmund have taken the places of Lord Shackleton, who died last year, and Sir Cennydd Treharne, who died in January.

The order was founded by Edward III in 1348.

Celtic Swing races to live up to 'the best' hype

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

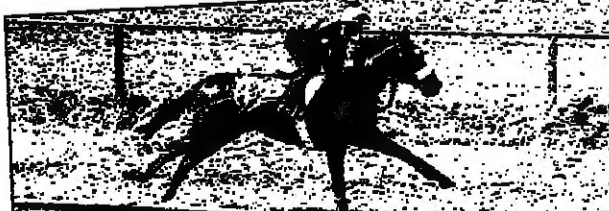
AT around three o'clock this afternoon the racing world will hold its breath as a horse steps out at Newbury and tries to justify hype and expectation which would have embarrassed Pegasus.

Celtic Swing's exploits last season made him Britain's most dominant champion two-year-old for 60 years. Remarkably, he is only 6-1 with William Hill to complete the Triple Crown - the 2,000 Guineas, the Derby and the St Leger - a feat last achieved by Nijinsky in 1970.

A near black colt, he ended last year retaining his unbeaten record when he won the Racing Post Trophy by 12 lengths, the widest margin in a group one race for two-year-olds in this country.

He is owned by Peter Savill and trained amid the rural splendour of Angmering Park in Sussex by Baroness Herries of Terregles. Her mother, Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk, bred Celtic Swing.

As he lines up for the Tripleprint Greenham Stakes this afternoon, even



Celtic Swing out on the gallops at Angmering Park, Sussex

Timeform, the normally cautious racing analysts, have been caught up by the fervour that he may turn out to be one of the best horses this century. In *Racehorses of 1994*, the annual publication detailing

the merits of last year's runners, they say: "If ever the words 'look a foregone conclusion' can be justified about horse races... then they can about the 1995 Two Thousand Guineas and Derby. If Celtic

Swing keeps clear of illness and injury, we can see nothing to beat him in either race."

If Celtic Swing wins today he will be the first odds-on favourite for the 2,000 Guineas since Nijinsky. He is already 11-4 for the Derby. Mike Dillon of Ladbrokes says: "The industry's liabilities will be about £10 million if he wins the Triple Crown."

A decent slice of that will go to Mr Savill. He backed the horse for the Derby after his first win last year - at 250-1.

Leading article, page 19
Racing, pages 40, 41

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Play Fantasy First XI for your chance to win £250 a week and a top prize of £10,000 in the 12-page Times Sport

PLUS: Matthew Parris, Libby Purves, Peter Riddell, Lynne Truss, Nigel Hawkes's science briefing on Mind and Matter, and the Education pages

HEALTH

Bulimia, binge eating and the body beautiful

PLUS: Bernard Levin, Nigella Lawson, Dr Thomas Stuttaford's Medical Briefing, the Law page and Your Own Business

FASHION

The summer uniform for women who mean business

PLUS: Simon Jenkins, Alan Coren, Brenda Maddox on Media, and the Property pages

POP

Caitlin Moran on modern music and musicians

PLUS: the Valerie Grove interview, Bernard Levin, Philip Howard, Clement Freud on sport and Infotech

MOTORING

Your chance to win the new, £18,000 MG

FILMS

Brad Pitt in *Legends of the Fall*, and the other films of the week

PLUS: Janet Daley, William Rees-Mogg, Books, Travel News, Body and Mind, the Economic View and the Appointments section

PLUS: in Weekend: how to get your passport to the treasures of Britain. In the Magazine: cult TV's top 25 And: Weekend Money and Vision, your 7-day TV and radio guide

THE TIMES AT 20p - YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS IT

Bullish Clarke shrugs off poor sales figures

By Philip Webster

THE Chancellor brushed aside fears that the recovery was running out of steam yesterday and signalled that disappointing borrowing and retail sales figures would not knock his tax-cutting strategy off course.

Keneth Clarke made light of official findings that the Government overshot its borrowing forecast by £1.3 billion last year and hinted that he would be ready to put up interest rates again if necessary.

Also, as the high street sales figures showed an



Clarke: hinted at tax cut

unexpected dip between February and March, Mr Clarke said he had deliberately damped down the economy after its 4 per cent growth last year by raising interest rates to make sure that recovery would last.

He told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme: "I don't want an artificial consumer boom that will all collapse in ruins in a very short time."

Loyalists advise Major to leave Euro-rebels in exile

By Philip Webster

JOHN MAJOR is being advised by loyalist ministers to prolong the exile of most of the whipless Tory rebels.

The ministers are saying that, having survived four months without the rebels, Mr Major has little to gain from asking the nine MPs to return now. They were thrown out of the parliamentary party last November for defying the Government in a confidence vote on the European budget.

With speculation about his leadership certain to resurface in the wake of an expected drubbing in the local elections on May 4, it is argued that Mr Major would be better off with some of his strongest critics outside the parliamentary party rather than in it. Some hardline loyalists would be happy if the expulsion continued indefinitely.

Among ministers close to Mr Major there is sympathy for the idea of bringing back two or three of the rebels

who are keen to return and who could be relied upon to back him in crucial votes. Nicholas Budgen, MP for Wolverhampton South West, Michael Carttiss, MP for Great Yarmouth, and Richard Shepherd, MP for Aldridge Brownhills, are mentioned as the most obvious contenders for recall.

The official position is that Richard Ryder, the Chief Whip, and Mr Major will decide to bring them back after an unspecified, but sustained, period in which they support the Government on all votes. The Government's official majority has dropped to 11, with the suspension of the two MPs involved in the cash-for-questions affair. The absence of the rebels from the fold leaves it in a technical minority.

But with Mr Major's enemies expected to mount an attempt to secure backing for a challenge to his leadership if the May 4 poll turns out to be as bad as forecast, loyalist ministers say there is no point in helping their cause. Any challenge could not take place

until the autumn, but Mr Major's fiercest backbench opponents are threatening privately to try to collect the 33 signatures that would be needed for a contest in the immediate aftermath of the elections in an effort to destabilise him.

However, the Euro-rebels would not, while deprived of the whip, be entitled to append their names to any "round-robin" being organised by the anti-Major plotters. At least half of them are fierce personal critics of Mr Major.

Another reason being advanced for keeping them out for the time being is that they will be convenient scapegoats when the elections see the Tories wiped out much of the local government map.

Mr Major and a posse of senior ministers will go into action on May 5 blaming party disunity for the dismal showing. Mr Major's Cabinet colleagues will demand loyalty to him and dismiss any idea of a leadership challenge. The existence of the rebels outside the party will be pointed to as

evidence of the splits that have brought the Conservatives into such deep unpopularity.

Senior ministers are also saying that bringing the rebels back would make little difference to the Government's voting tally; back inside, they could not be relied upon to support the Government in votes on Europe, the issue that saw them expelled. But whether outside or inside they would be certain to back the Government on any vote elevated to a confidence issue.

A stark warning over the impact of divisions on Europe was delivered last night by a senior Tory backbencher. Sir Patrick Cormack, MP for South Staffordshire, whose constituency neighbours include three of the whipless Tories, said that if "petty quarrels" persisted the Tory parliamentary party would be reduced to a "pitiful rump" at the next election.

Division over Europe was at the root of the party's troubles and the biggest impediment to recovery, he said.

Suspect charged with PC's murder

A man was charged last night with the murder of PC Philip Walters, who was shot four days ago as he answered a call to a disturbance in Ilford, east London.

Bernard Lavett, 36, described as a pecker and hoodier, of Willesden, northwest London, is due to appear at Redbridge Magistrates' Court today.

A woman was also arrested yesterday in connection with the killing and another man is still in custody after being arrested, shortly after the shooting.

Detectives are still seeking a further suspect: PC Walters, 28, was shot when he went to investigate a disturbance at a flat in Empress Avenue, a residential street in Ilford.

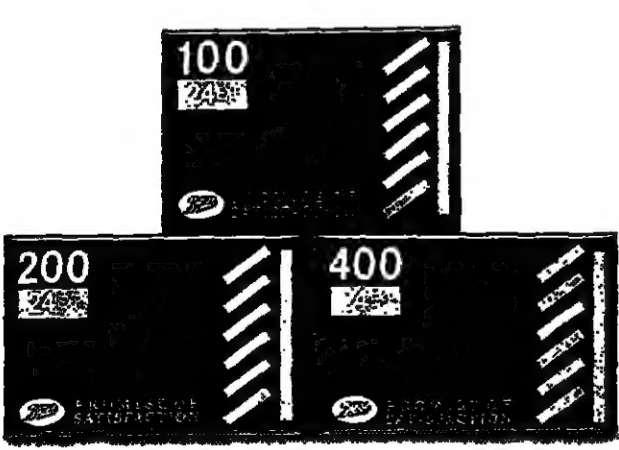


John Walters was killed in a shooting in Ilford

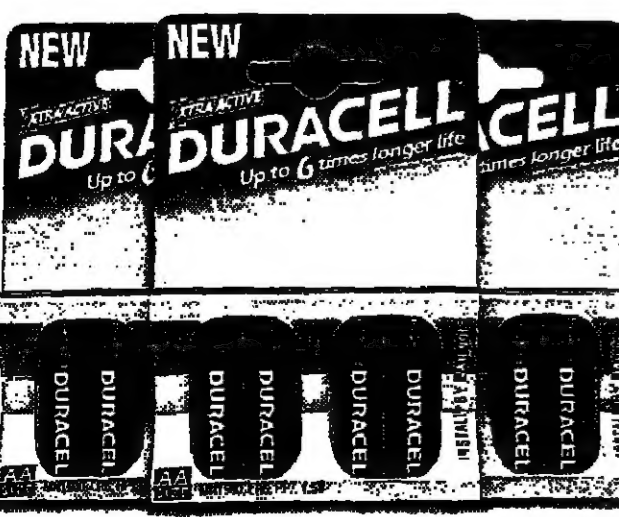
Solicitor jailed for insurance swindle

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Union votes nine to one for Clause 4 reform

By Philip Bassett

TONY BLAIR won a substantial boost in his campaign to modernise the Labour Party yesterday when the members of a leading union voted overwhelmingly in favour of change.

The Communication Workers' Union voted by nine to one in a ballot to support rewriting Clause Four of the party's constitution. The vote was seized upon by Mr Blair last night as proof that, when unions and party members have been consulted, the majority for change is huge. That is certain to be reinforced by the results of the constituency party ballots, which are expected to be released on Sunday.

The vote, which had been expected to increase the likelihood of a comfortable win for Mr Blair at next Saturday's special conference in London. He said: "I believe that ordinary party and trade union members support change and modernisation, and that will become clearer as the results of constituency ballots come in. The message of that will be lost on nobody. At least all a Tory party desperate to claim that the Labour leadership is out of touch with its membership."

Down and outs given vote in council election

By Ian Murray, Community Correspondent

FOUR people living rough in Manchester will be able to vote in next month's local elections after becoming the first of Britain's 8,000 homeless to be allowed on to the electoral roll.

Their addresses are listed as: Park bench, Piccadilly; Under the railway arches, New Wakefield Street; the railway arch, Little Peter Street; and Doorway, Marks & Spencer. Their polling cards will be sent to the town hall or to any charity they choose to nominate.

The four were registered under a pilot scheme run by Manchester City Council and The Big Issue magazine after a Home Office working party reported last year that "the absence of bricks and mortar" was not a handicap for qualification to vote.

According to the Home Office, proof of "a substantial degree of permanence" in a rough sleeping site is all the homeless need to qualify for the vote. Encouraged by this, staff at The Big Issue began contacting Manchester's homeless in February to advise them they could register and vote. Four decided to do so in time for the local elections. "A lot of homeless people are

'Thug's' charter halted

Continued from page 1

courage better behaviour when he returned to lessons. If the boy met the conditions, his mother agreed to allow him to play with his computer for an extra hour each night. But, he added: "All hell broke loose when the staff found out."

When he took their objections to the head, he was criticised for being "negative". Eventually the contract was changed, however, with all specific targets dropped.

Mr Johnson said: "Can you imagine the problems we would have faced if we had let that little thug back in under that contract? What would have happened when we told a

parent: "We are sorry that your daughter's skull has been fractured but she was only the sixth pupil that little Johnnie hit this week?"

Mr Johnson, who refused to name the school because it might identify the boy, said that pupil behaviour contracts were useful but had to be practical. "You cannot condone this kind of behaviour by specifying the number of anti-social acts a child is to be allowed to carry out."

Northumberland County Council said it had no record of the draft contract and said the only acceptable target for violent behaviour was its complete disappearance. Chris

Tipple, director of education, said: "If it appears, following further investigation, that an inappropriate contract exists, then psychologists will of course be reminded that no violent acts are acceptable, a conclusion with which I am certain they agree."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the NASUWT, said disruptive pupils were greatest single barrier to raising standards.

He said the union was concerned that it had fought 46 cases this year where teachers refused to teach a pupil whose expulsion had been overturned on appeal, compared to 40 last year.

More soldiers leave Ulster

A further 400 soldiers were pulled out of Northern Ireland yesterday. Officers and men of the 40th Regiment Royal Artillery left RAF Aldergrove, Co Antrim, to return to Holme, Germany, for a programme of re-equipment and training.

It was the second big withdrawal in recent weeks and means that almost 1,000 soldiers have left since the ceasefire in August. An estimated 17,500 remain.

NarWest top of company flops

The National Westminster Bank has the worst image of any company in Britain, according to an annual survey of 1,600 of the country's biggest. Railtrack was second bottom with Barclays third.

The PricewaterhouseCoopers survey, which awards points for good coverage, also put British Rail in the bottom ten, with Eurotunnel and British Gas. The top company was BP, with Marks & Spencer second and Hanson third.

Prison escapes fall by third

The 202 escapes from prisons and prison escorts in the past year represented a fall of a third, Michael Forsyth, Home Office Minister of State, said yesterday.

He also disclosed that the number of escapes in the past six months from the Court Escort and Custody Service, operated by Group 4 and Securix, was more than 90 per cent lower than when prison officers and police ran the service.

Spurned lover killed again

A man who has twice killed women who rejected him was jailed for life yesterday at the Old Bailey. Anthony Lewis, 50, of Burnt Oak, north London, strangled and stabbed his former lover, Marilyn Thompson, 48, last August.

He admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility. Lewis was jailed in 1988 for the manslaughter of a former girlfriend.

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John Walters was killed in a shooting in Ilford

Solicitor jailed for insurance swindle

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THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 22 1995

Former secretary accuses lawyer who criticised Law Society vice-president

Woman standing for top legal post is taken to tribunal

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE woman solicitor blamed for exposing the Law Society's vice-president over sexual harassment is being taken to an industrial tribunal over alleged racial and sexual discrimination.

Eileen Pembroke, a legal aid solicitor who is standing to be the first woman president of the Law Society, faces a claim by a former secretary, Angela Kennedy, 36, of South Norwood, London, alleges sexual and racial discrimination against Ms Pembroke and the firm, Fisher Meredith, over changes to her contract of employment after eight years' service.

Ms Kennedy, who was in charge of the support staff in the firm's matrimonial department, claims she was forced into "constructive dismissal" in January this year. "We used to be given time off for dependants. I am separated and have a five-year-old son. When he's sick, I need to be off work. But the firm decided to withdraw this provision,

which hits women — and the black women in the firm particularly hard."

She has lodged papers with an industrial tribunal in West Croydon and hopes to obtain a hearing later this year. "I am astonished, amazed, to see Eileen Pembroke standing for the Law Society presidency on a women's issues ticket, when her own firm treats women badly," she said.

Ms Pembroke, 51, rejected the allegations yesterday. "When we decided to revise all the contracts in the wake of the recent trade union legislation, we were extremely careful about how we did it, and took advice from the Institute of Personnel Management. We consulted widely and Ms Kennedy seems to have assumed that because we consulted, it was going to happen."

In fact, at the end of the consultation period, the contracts were changed only slightly, she said. They still allowed for staff to take leave for dependants, but at the

discretion of the firm's partners.

Ms Pembroke said: "Ms Kennedy has jumped the gun. She was simply got it wrong and this will be explained to her when the matter comes up before the hearing."

Two weeks ago, Ms Pembroke caused a stir at a conference for women lawyers when she revealed that allegations had been made to senior Law Society members that a society council member (thought to be herself) and society staff had been sexually harassed. Although she mentioned no names, the president, Charles Ely, went on to talk about a "council member". He said an inquiry had been made at the time and "action was taken".

It was an open secret that that member was John Young, deputy vice-president. Days later he announced his withdrawal from the forthcoming elections for president.

Yesterday Mr Young sent a letter to all council members saying he did not blame Ms Pembroke for what had happened, which had come about because of inaccurate press reporting, and he accepted she had not intended his withdrawal.

Rumours of the allegations have been circulating in the Law Society for some time but the timing of Ms Pembroke's disclosure shocked a number of council members.

Ms Pembroke has been widely criticised for "outing" Mr Young, particularly by her rival in the presidential election, Martin Mears, a Great Yarmouth solicitor, who has said Ms Pembroke was "obsessed with sexual harassment".



John Young was forced to step down after allegations of harassment by Eileen Pembroke



Angela Kennedy, a former secretary who claims sexual discrimination

Solicitor jailed for insurance swindle

A SOLICITOR who helped to fake his friend's death was jailed for three years yesterday. The deception was exposed when the supposedly dead man was seen eating a pub lunch with his "widow".

Anthony Hackett-Jones, 52, a lawyer and experienced sailor, jailed with his friends Russell and Patricia Causley from Hamble, Hampshire, to Guernsey on October 20, 1993.

Their yacht arrived at St Peter Port the next day and Causley was not on board. Southwark Crown Court was told. Mrs Causley, 37, was screaming that her husband had fallen overboard. Hackett-Jones raised the alarm, prompting a £20,000 air-sea search in atrocious conditions ten miles southwest of the island.

The plot was hatched to pay off the Causleys' debts. Causley had life insurance policies worth £770,000.

Hackett-Jones was found guilty of conspiring to defraud insurance companies. The Causleys, of Ardingly, West Sussex, admitted the same charge. Causley was jailed for two years and his wife was given 12 months suspended.

Earl and countess to live separately on Althorp estate

By ALAN HAMILTON

EARL SPENCER, younger brother of the Princess of Wales, is to live separately from his wife after only six years of marriage, it emerged yesterday.

Countess Spencer, 29, the former fashion model Victoria Lockwood, is currently being treated at an addiction clinic in Surrey for alcoholism and anxiety nerves. When she comes out, probably in two months, she will live apart from her husband and their four children in a house on the family estate at Althorp, Northamptonshire.

A spokesman for Lord Spencer said that a house on the Althorp estate would be made available to the countess, so the couple's children could be near both parents. The earl's solicitors refused to make any further comment on the issue yesterday. The earl went to ground to avoid questioning.

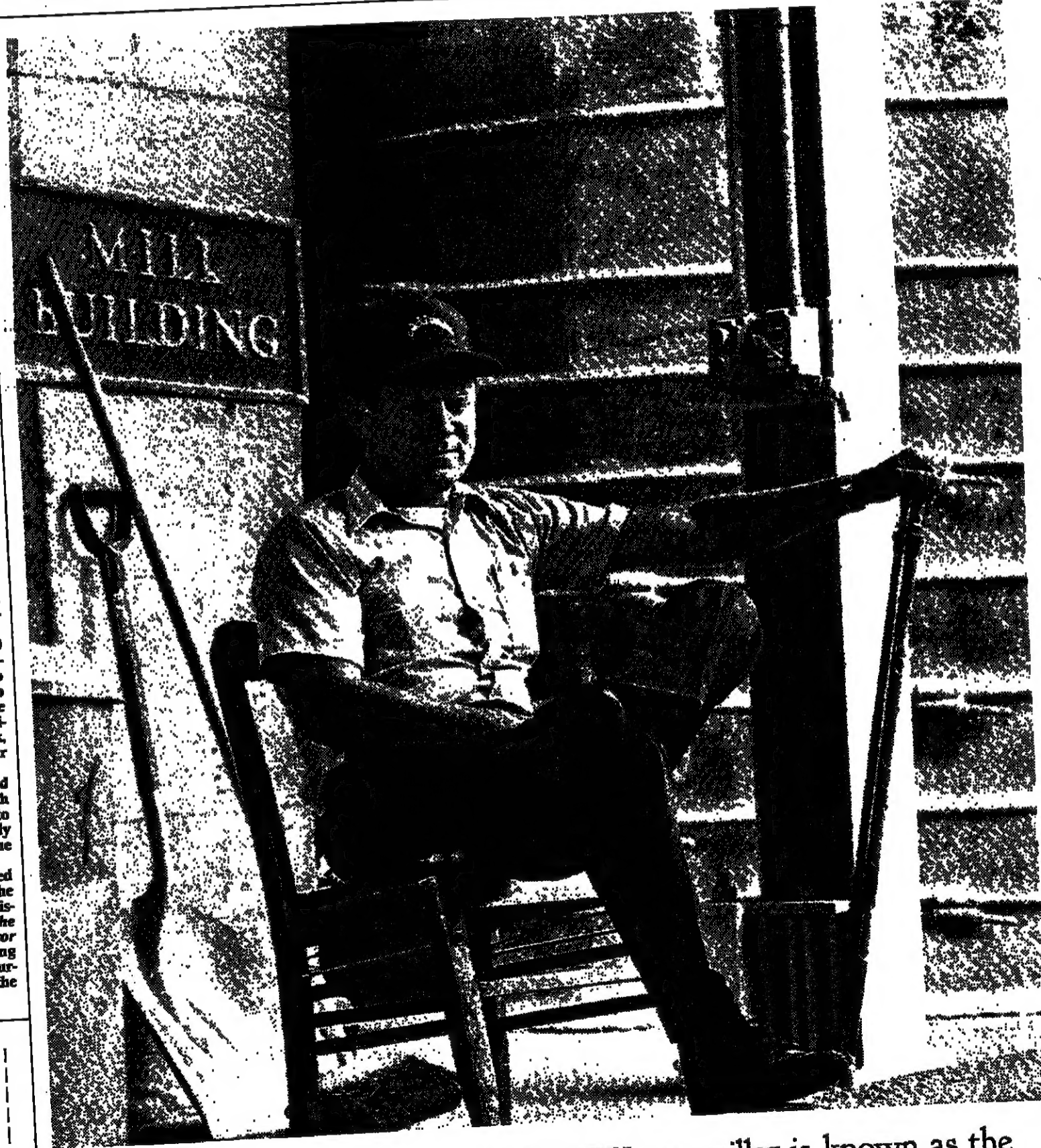
Lord Spencer, 30, who assumed the title and the family estate on the death of his father in 1992, recently disclosed his wife's condition in an interview with ITN. Irri-

tated by tabloid newspaper speculation on the state of his marriage, he said that his wife had been troubled by eating disorders for ten years. He added that he had finally persuaded her to have proper treatment at the Surrey clinic, and confessed that she had "serious psychological problems".

The couple married in 1989 after a romance lasting barely six weeks. Within two years Lord Spencer, who works as a journalist in the London bureau of the American NBC television network, had confessed to an affair with another journalist.

The couple are understood to have agreed that both should have free access to their children when Lady Spencer is released from the clinic at Ockley, Surrey.

Lord Spencer has lodged formal complaints with the Press Complaints Commission against the *News of the World*, the *Sunday Mirror* and *The People*, alleging harassment of his wife during her treatment at the addiction clinic.



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Rail reliability falls in run-up to privatisation

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT



Watts: improvement on way

THE Government's rail privatisation programme encountered a fresh setback yesterday when it emerged that train delays and cancellations have soared on many lines since the break-up of British Rail began last year.

Figures disclosed by BR show that levels of reliability fell on two thirds of the network during the 12 months to the end of March.

BR blamed last summer's four-month signal workers' strike and the disruption caused by the Government's highly controversial reorganisation of Britain's railways for the drop in standards. "Everything has been distorted by the dispute," a spokesman said. "You

should see some pretty dramatic improvements next year." Last month 75 per cent of train lines reached standards above the annual average, he said.

On ten lines, mainly in the North West, Scotland and Wales, the deterioration was so bad that it triggered discounts for season ticket holders under the Citizen's Charter. Two train operators, one in Manchester and one in Avon, failed to reach minimum standards for either the number of delays or the number of cancelled trains.

Service also deteriorated on many commuter lines in the South East, where large investment programmes are placing huge strains

on the ability of local management to provide a reliable service.

The Northampton lines saw the percentage of trains cancelled rise from 0.5 per cent to 1.7 per cent, while the London, Tilbury and Southend line reported that the proportion of its services delayed by more than 5 minutes rose from 8.2 per cent to 12.9 per cent.

John Watts, the railways minister, rushed to defend the performance of the railways, claiming that the hold-ups were the result of record levels of investment.

"We have a massive programme of investment in new signalling and upgrading of the line and, rather as we find when we set about improving our houses, there is some short-term discomfort for longer-term benefit," he said on Radio 4. "The management of all the train operating companies are committed to improving services, the Government is committed to improving services and everyone is concentrating to ensure that the exacting targets for reliability and punctuality are met by more lines."

Privatisation began in earnest in April last year when Railtrack, the company responsible for maintaining the lines and signalling, was hived off from British Rail in preparation for a stock market flotation. Since then, British Rail passenger services have been run by 25 separate units, the bulk of which are expected to be auctioned to the private sector by next April.

Opposition parties seized on the figures as conclusive evidence that privatisation is turning into a disaster. Michael Meacher, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said: "These shocking figures show the true costs of privatisation. They show that as British Rail is carved up ready for the sell-off, passengers face fare rises, service cuts, delays and declining standards. When will the Government face this simple truth?"

For the Liberal Democrats, Paul Tyler said privatisation was holding up much needed investment in the railways. "The resulting delays are serious enough. Ministers will not be able to wash their hands of responsibility if the accident risk increases too," he said.

Appeal to bring back 2-minute silence

A campaign will be launched this weekend to bring back the nationwide two-minute silence to remember the victims of war. The British Legion hopes that the public will honour the silence at 1,000 locations at the first opportunity: the VE-Day anniversary on May 8.

The Legion ultimately hopes that the silence will be respected in all 40,000 parks nationwide. "There was a time when traffic came to a halt right around the country, people in the streets stopped and stood still," one Legion official said. "That has been eroded over the years."

Father accused

A man was remanded in custody by Mid-Shropshire magistrates accused of murdering his three babies. Simon Smith, 26, was accused last year of murdering a daughter. Yesterday he was charged with murdering another daughter and a son.

Pulpit restored

The priest-in-charge at St Luke's Church in Hage, Derbyshire, has been ordered by a consistory court to return a 19th-century pulpit after a campaign by parishioners. The Rev David Rymer had said the pulpit was redundant and hoped to sell it.

Rape charge PC

A police officer has been charged with rape after allegations made by a 15-year-old girl, the Police Complaints Authority said yesterday. The officer, believed to be a 32-year-old PC with the Lancashire force, has been suspended from duty.

Murder unsolved

Police said an inquest in Bradford that they were no closer to finding the killer of Amy Shepherd, 26, a spinster who was found strangled and stabbed through the neck in her flat in the city eight months ago. The hearing was adjourned.

Detectives return

Avon and Somerset Police has restored the title of detective, scrapped two years ago to end rivalry between CID and uniformed sections. The force reversed its decision after complaints from the public who wanted "proper detectives" investigating crime.

Deer rescued

Lifeboatmen rescued a wild deer that had become trapped in water inside a cave near Bridport, Devon. One of the rescuers swam into the cave, tied a rope around the animal and others pulled it on to the boat. It was later returned to the wild.

£286,000 organ

A chamber organ designed by the 18th-century architect Robert Adam, which had been used to accompany hymns at Llandisarnae College near Wrexham, Cymru, was sold for £286,000 to the National Museum and Galleries of Wales at a Phillips sale.

Sierra Leone captives were threatened with execution

Radio chats with rebels help police free Britons

By BILL FROST

SCOTLAND YARD negotiators were praised yesterday for their role in winning freedom for six British hostages held by rebel forces in Sierra Leone.

One of the victims, who hopes to return home on Monday, has told his wife how the captives were threatened with execution.

The Foreign Office revealed yesterday that over the months the officers took turns in pairs to advise on tactics, to liaise with aid agencies and to speak to the rebels by radio.

Patience paid off on Thursday when the Britons were released unharmed on the border with Guinea.

The Foreign Office turned to Scotland Yard for help when Calum Murray, 25, from the Isle of Lewis and Robert D'Cruz, 30, a Londoner working for Voluntary Service Overseas, were seized last November. James Westwood and Ross Milne, who worked for a mining company in Sierra Leone, were captured on January 18. Two days later, Andrew Young and Peter White, who were employed by a local engineering firm, also became hostages.

Last night the six arrived in Conakry, Guinea's capital, after a gruelling journey from the border. Among those who

welcomed them were two of the Scotland Yard officers.

A Foreign Office spokesman said there were no meetings with the guerrillas. "All the contact was made over the HF radio. It was a long, difficult and painstaking process."

Mr White's wife was yesterday "delirious with joy" at his release. Lesley White said: "I've spoken to Peter in Guinea and his voice is a bit croaky, but otherwise he's fine. I told him 'I love you' and that he should just catch any plane home he could."

Mr White told his wife that he and other hostages were threatened with execution and marched round a series of remote camps by the Revolutionary United Front. Mrs White said that he told her: "I've had an interesting and fulfilling experience. Don't worry, I'll explain everything. I'll see you soon."

Calum Murray's MP, Calum Macdonald, Labour member for the Western Isles, visited the Yard's special incident room several times and listened as the negotiators made radio contact with the rebels. He said yesterday: "On a map on the wall they chartered Calum's every movement even what he was eating and his psychological state. Having regular contact



Commander Ramon led Sierra Leone negotiators



with the Scotland Yard officers reassured him and helped him through. The officers quickly established a rapport with the rebels, which was crucial. In the end they were on Christian-name terms, and I believe

that this rapport finally persuaded the rebels to release Calum.

"The officers persuaded them it was futile to hang on to him. They were the major reason why he is free now."

Mr Murray's brother, Iain, 27, and his sister Karen, 17, were yesterday planning to come to London to await his return. They hope that he will be fit enough to travel tomorrow.

The police team, all specialist negotiators, was led by Commander Roy Ramon, the head of SOI, the Yard's International and Organised Crime Branch, and one of his deputies, Detective Superintendent Mike Dickson.

Commander Ramon said: "I am delighted that the six Britons held in Sierra Leone have been released. I would like to pay tribute to my officers who have worked extremely hard alongside the other agencies and groups involved in negotiating the release."

The hostages are being looked after by Red Cross volunteers. "We have a doctor and nurse accompanying them," a spokesman in Geneva said. "From what we heard yesterday, their state of health seems to be satisfactory."

"They are very tired, exhausted, that's for sure."



Bridget Cunningham hanging pig's tails on the line and giving a Nazi salute

Jewish family abused by neighbours wins £8,000

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A JEWISH family who suffered five years of abuse from their neighbours were awarded £8,000 in damages yesterday.

Bridget Cunningham hung pig's tails from the washing line of Danny Israel, 48, a photographer, and his two young daughters were sprayed with weedkiller in a dispute which began with an argument about a garden fence. Brentford County Court, west London, was told.

Awarding costs and an injunction against Mrs Cunningham, 61, Judge Oppenheimer said it was "the most acrimonious dispute between neighbours that I have ever seen."

The dispute between Mrs Cunningham, who lives with her brothers Robert and Peter Bodsworth, began shortly after Mr Israel moved into his semi-detached home in September 1990. Mr Israel rebuilt a fence which separated his house from the Cunninghams', but in 1992 Mrs Cunningham took Mr Israel to court to force him to remove it.

Mr Israel counter-claimed in June 1994 and sought an injunction against Mrs Cunningham and her brothers. He was successful, but had his victory set aside when a judge declared a mistrial.

During the latest hearing, the court was told that members of the Cunningham family had sprayed weedkiller at Mr Israel, 41, and his sister Frances, 9, and shouted anti-Semitic abuse at them from their back garden.

Summing up, Judge Oppenheimer said that Mr Israel had been spat at by his neighbours, and told to "go back where you come from."

Outside the court Mr Israel said: "My daughters have spent a large part of their formative years being intimidated. It really is sad to see such old people setting such an appalling example to children."



Danny Israel and his wife Ann after the court case

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Sculptor's model trapped in plaster cast

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A DRAMA student had to be hammered free from a plaster cast when a sculptor trying to make a mould of his torso used an industrial-strength mix by mistake.

It took three firemen, two ambulance men and a team of nurses nearly five hours to release Paul Ffrench, 19, after Kate Ffrench, an art student, covered him from neck to thigh in wall plaster instead of plaster of Paris. He lost most of his body hair as the cast was chipped off.

Mr Ffrench, of Giron, Cambridge, said: "Kate had read a book on how to make a mould, but I don't think she got further than the preface. When the plaster set the idea was that I should just flex my muscles and break out of it, but it was unbreakable. We read the packet afterwards and it said that it was industrial plaster and that skin must be washed immediately if it comes into contact."

Miss Ffrench, 18, a student at the Slade School of Art in London, is now doing the sculpture without a model.

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Lagonda limousine and Alfa-Romeo sports car once owned by war leaders could fetch £275,000

Mussolini's motor likely to upstage Churchill sale

By KEVIN EASON
AND ERIC DYMOCK

THE Alfa-Romeo sports car on which the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini lavished loving care and the Lagonda V12 that Churchill used to inspect bomb damage in the East End of London will be sold in London next month.

The Lagonda, a factory demonstration model that was also used by George VI, has spent most of its life in the United States, where it was known to the American Lagonda Club as The Churchill Car. It will be offered for private sale at £125,000 but Mussolini's 1935 Alfa-Romeo 6C 2300, which has his name on the logbook, could fetch as much as £150,000.

The logbook shows that the original owner took a personal interest in his favourite run-about in spite of more pressing matters. Mussolini was keen on glamorous, open-bodied models. The car, his eighth Alfa, was registered in August 1935, only three months before Italy invaded Abyssinia, where Emperor Haile Selassie vowed to fight the Italian army to the last man.

The registration document, numbered 47820 of the Reale Automobile Club d'Italia, confirms that the car's first owner was Cavaliere Benito Mussolini of Rome. The Alfa, to be sold by Coys of Kensington on May 11 at Chiswick House in west London, is a reminder of the heady days before the Second World War when cars were treated by leaders such as Hitler and Mussolini as proof of their technological



Mussolini touring the Ligurian Riviera in the Alfa in 1935 with his Blackshirt bodyguards. Right, the cars to be sold in London next month

superiority. Unfortunately, the world's reaction to the Abyssinia invasion almost halted Mussolini's ambitions for his motor industry.

He had entered his Alfa in the 1936 Mille Miglia, the legendary 1,000-mile race across Italy, from Brescia over the Appennines to Florence and Rome and back. The race attracted entrants from around the world and Mussolini was anxious to see an Italian car home first, preferably his Alfa.

But economic sanctions imposed by the League of Nations cut off supplies of petrol, forcing Il Duce to call on his people to search for a range of

alternative fuels that could power the nation's Fiats and Alfas. That also meant that the Mille Miglia race cars had to use alternative fuels, such as charcoal gas or alcohol.

To show that he was leading the nation from the front, Mussolini sent his car back to Alfa's factory for modifications allowing it to run on alcohol from a small tank behind the front seats. Unfortunately, the car did not run well on alcohol and what Il Duce did not tell his people was that the petrol tank was still fitted — and full.

Mussolini's chauffeur, Ercole Boratto, was ordered to drive in the Mille Miglia and



was told about the secret petrol, which could be pumped into the engine by means of a small tap hidden under the dashboard. As soon as he was out of sight of crowds and the rest of the field, Boratto turned the tap to get extra power from the petrol denied the rest of the competitors.

However, although Boratto was excellent at driving slowly

along wide streets with Mussolini standing at his side waving, he was not so good at handling the car at speed on the twisting race circuit. Even with Il Duce's help, the Alfa could manage no better than thirteenth place.

The tap is still on the car. The original windshield has been restored, replacing a small one that Mussolini — a short man — had fitted so he

could be seen to full advantage while crowds showered him with flowers.

After Mussolini's death, the Alfa disappeared until the 1960s when it was discovered in the film studios of Cinecittà, known as Rome's Hollywood. The car was dusty and faded and the wheels and some parts were missing but these have been tracked down over the past 25 years by a

determined owner, who wishes to remain anonymous. The radiator shutters still work smoothly, the controls and plumbing for the hydraulic shock absorbers and other mechanical parts work almost as well as when Mussolini's hapless chauffeur was racing around Italy in the Mille Miglia. However, it is that name in the original logbook which will probably double

the value of the Alfa at auction. Simon Kidston, of Coys, said yesterday that the car was the only one of Mussolini's Alfas to survive and probably the only car of any of the war leaders to have their name on the registration documents. He added: "It is a wonderful find because there is much history attached to it."

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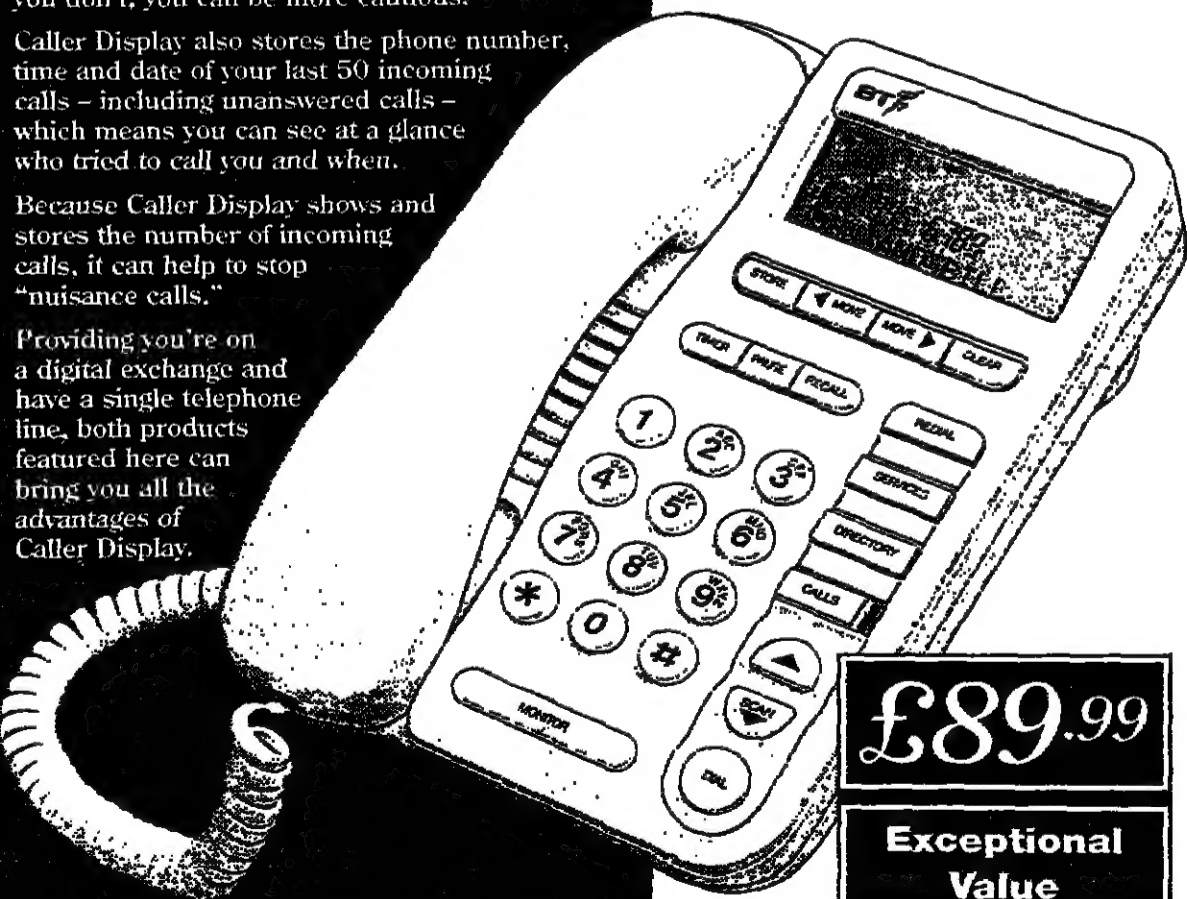
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Wakeham promises to censure rogue editors

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

LORD WAKEHAM, the new chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, announced details yesterday of his campaign for defending newspapers against those "baying" for statutory controls.

In a robust defence of press self-regulation, the former Tory Cabinet Minister, who became chairman on January 1, also announced four new appointments to the commission's board to strengthen its public standing.

Speaking to the Scottish Press Fund, he gave details of the "Wakeham Contract with the Press". This would be based on working "harder than ever before" to build up the confidence of public and politicians in media self-regulation.

There were signs that this was already happening, he said. Since the beginning of the year complaints to the

commission had increased by more than a third, indicating that ordinary people did believe it was effective.

But, Lord Wakeham said, vigilance was needed: "Every time there is a high-profile story in one of the newspapers which raises genuine issues, the pontification of some broadcast journalists and the baying in the ranks of liberal liberals calling for privacy legislation is as predictable as night following day."

To counter this, the commission needed to deal with every complaint calmly and consistently without giving instant reactions to the media. His comment is a veiled reference to his predecessor, Lord McGregor of Durris, who made public pronouncements on alleged privacy intrusions by the press before complaints had been investigated. The commission also needed to ensure that editors did not flout the

industry's code by defending stories as being in the public interest when they did not involve issues of genuine concern to the public. "The commission will be stinging in its criticism of such editors."

Lord Wakeham said that the main board, which deals with complaints, now had a majority of lay members. The four new members are Baroness Smith of Gilmorhill, widow of the Labour leader John Smith, Lady Browne-Wilkinson, a senior partner at the London solicitors Charles Russell, Sir Brian Cribb, a former Permanent Secretary at the Home Office and the Northern Ireland Office, and Lord Tordoff, a former Liberal Democrat Chief Whip in the House of Lords.

All four new members have been approved by the commission's appointments board, which itself has two new members.

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Nine crew died in Channel fireball when ships flouted fog rules, inquiry reports

Captain in tanker crash was awake for 23 hours

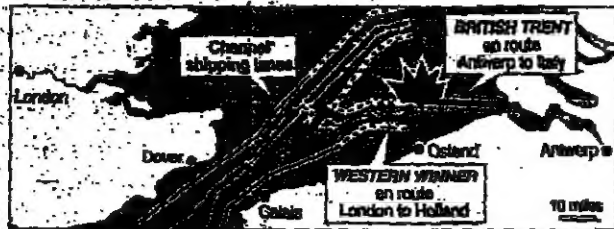
By JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE master of a BP petrol tanker that caught fire in the English Channel after a collision had not slept for 23 hours, an official investigation said yesterday.

Nine crew members died when the *British Trent* was hit by the Hong Kong-owned bulk carrier *Western Winner* in thick fog off Ostend in June 1993. Both vessels were registered under flags of convenience.

A fireball ignited by the collision forced the *British Trent* crew to jump into the sea where they were engulfed by choking black smoke from burning oil. Twenty of the *British Trent* crew were rescued. The *Western Winner* crew suffered no injuries.

In a highly critical report, officials from the Marine Accident Investigation Branch said both vessels had broken basic international shipping rules for travelling in fog. The *Western Winner*, registered in



Panama, had been going too fast and had failed to keep an adequate look-out. The Bermuda-registered *British Trent* had failed to make proper use of her radar and had wrongly assumed that the other ship would react to the danger of collision.

The report said that the judgment of both masters may have been affected by fatigue and stress. Stanley Montagu, the captain of the *British Trent*, had been awake throughout the 23 hours leading up to the collision at 5.30am. He had been working on the bridge for 11 hours. Gang Dae-Pung, master of the 30,000-tonne *Western Winner*, had only three hours rest before being called to the

bridge at 4.30am. "It is not a satisfactory situation that ships' masters and other seafarers should be either expected, or allowed, to put to sea when they are not fully rested," the report said.

There are regulations which govern the hours of work and rest of those employed in road, rail and air transport. It is considered to be in the interest of safety at sea that seafarers' hours of work and rest should be subject to regulation.

The report said that fighting was impossible on the *British Trent* because the main fire pumps had not been turned on and were knocked out of action by the collision. "The ability to start the fire

pumps from the bridge would have saved time and reduced the risk to the crew members, who showed courage and determination in attempting to get them started."

The 25,000-tonne *British Trent* was on her way from Antwerp to Fiumicino in Italy. The *Western Winner*, part loaded with copper dross, was going from London to Vlissingen in The Netherlands. The accident happened in one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. The investigators said that the Bermudan shipping authorities should ask Belgium and The Netherlands to get world shipping authorities to improve safety in the area.

In December 1993 her captain and the owners, Liberia-based Alpha Beta Investments, were charged with manslaughter by the prosecutor's office in Bruges.

The captain has failed to appear at several hearings and another is due next month. Inquests on four Britons who died will be held at Poole, Dorset, next month.



The BP petrol tanker *British Trent* failed to make proper use of her radar

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Apocalypse now



The suicide of his daughter Cheyenne has devastated Marlon Brando — but how much responsibility must he take for her death...?

Peter Manso, Brando's biographer, tells the story of a doomed relationship. Only in *The Sunday Times*, tomorrow

Master's sea view blocked by cargo

By JONATHAN PRYNN

A FREIGHTER has been ordered to stay in dock in Southampton after her captain sailed 9,000 miles with his view blocked by fairground equipment piled up on the ship's deck.

The German skipper was forced to rely on radar and instructions from crew in an observation post to navigate the 2,729-tonne *Edda* from Bangkok to the Solent. She was returning fairground rides and games packed in lorries to Britain after a fair had finished a tour of Thailand and Malaysia.

Marine Safety Agency officials boarded the Bahamian-registered ship on Thursday after being tipped off by the pilot who steered her into Southampton docks. The pilot had to sail a mile ahead to be seen from the *Edda*'s bridge.

Johannes Biedermann, the *Edda*'s captain, denied the vessel had been a hazard. "We have an observation deck and from there we can see ahead and we have very good radar,"

A marine safety expert said: "What the captain was doing was the equivalent to driving a car with your hands over your eyes and relying on instructions from the passenger."

Irish ban waste ship bound for Sellafield

By A STAFF REPORTER

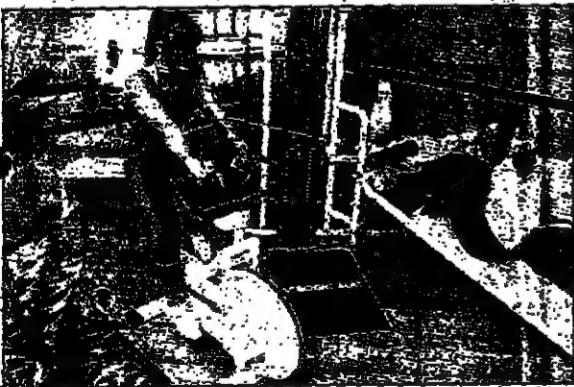
THE Irish Government yesterday banned a ship bound for the Sellafield nuclear waste reprocessing plant in Cumbria. The *City of Manchester* had been due to dock at Dublin next week en route to Sellafield with a cargo of uranium ore concentrate from Portugal.

Eamon Gilmore, the Irish marine minister, said the action had been taken in line with government policy. In Dublin, the move was seen as a hardening official attitude towards Sellafield.

Last month Mr Gilmore said fresh consideration was being given to the possibility of legal action over the Thorp reprocessing plant near Sellafield. That development followed an Irish High Court ruling that four residents from Dundalk, Co Louth, could take court action against the Thorp scheme.

The residents based their action on claims that people living on Ireland's east coast are subject to hazardous emissions of poisonous materials. Previously, successive Irish Governments had been advised there were insufficient grounds for new legal moves over Sellafield.

THE TIMES Stay in shape for 20p



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THE TIMES



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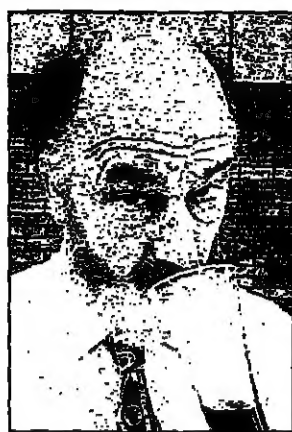
Health-conscious adults forsake cola and alcohol for a subtle combination of herbs and hokum.

New Age elixirs restore sparkle to drinks trade

THE adult soft-drinks market is growing rapidly as British adults suffer the effects of cola fatigue. The Prince of Wales is among the newest players in an increasingly complex market, worth more than £600 million a year and in which new brands are being launched at a rate of more than one a day.

The launch last month of the Duchy of Cornwall's Duchy Originals Numbers 1 and 3, designed as dinner-party substitutes for red and white wine and made with fruit juices and herbs, will be followed shortly by the arrival from America of Oasis, a still fruit drink promised to be "calm and rejuvenate", and Schizán, a herb-based sparkler which is claimed to deliver "refreshment to the senses".

They will jostle on the shelves alongside such oddballs as Purdey's, a gingery "elixir wine" in a grenade-shaped bottle; Aqua Libra, which the publicity claims "helps to restore alkaline balance"; Amé, Kiri and Miro,



Robin Young reports on a healthy future for the adult soft-drinks market and samples some of the leading brands, many of whose ingredients read more like the recipe for a witches' brew

"the sparkle of summer". The ingredients on many of these so-called New Age drinks reads like a witches' brew. Gentian, milk thistle, centaury, damiana, schizandra, bayberry, feverfew, dock, alehoof and prickly ash bark all feature alongside the almost ubiquitous ginseng.

Old favourites have been repackaged to catch the new trend, including Lucozade Sport, Lucozade NRG, and

Ribena ready-mixed with spring water. Newcomers include the many exotically titled formulas of Snapple, a brand of iced teas flavoured with fruit juices, invented in New York by two former window cleaners and a health store proprietor. Their company, Snapple Beverage, was bought by Quaker Oats last year for \$1.7 billion.

The brand, having been test-marketed successfully in the London area since last year, is now being rolled out across Britain. It already has home-grown competitors such as Liptonic, sparkling iced lemon tea in a can, which Brooke Bond spent £2 million developing and hired Angus Deayton to advertise.

The drinks command premium prices, though often their background is more mundane than it might appear. Aqua Libra, which costs as much as cheap wine, is "based on a Swiss recipe", but was actually developed, like Bailey's Irish Cream and Malibu liqueurs, by Grand Metropolitan's drinks division in Essex.

The brand has since been sold to what is now a leader in the sector, Orchid Drinks. Orchid, whose own brands included Amé, Monsoon and Jive, at the same time bought Purdey's, Dexter's (a "low-calorie hypotonic sports drink") and Norfolk Punch ("a blend of 30 herbal extracts discovered by the ancient monks of Upwell"). Rob



New brands of soft drinks are being launched at the rate of more than one a day with ever more exotic titles

Shotton, Orchid's managing director, says: "All our research indicates there are tremendous opportunities to develop new drinks for the adult soft-drinks market, which we expect to grow briskly through the Nineties. Very few soft drinks have

been specifically designed for adults, yet they already consume over half the total produced. That consumption will increase as people become more concerned about health and the risks of alcohol consumption."

But the cola companies, who admit "cola fatigue among the 20-35 age group", are hitting back. Coca-Cola will soon launch Fruition, a range of fruit-based soft drinks with rather extravagant names such as Psychic Lemonade and Citric Consciousness. Pepsi-Cola is working on

ready-to-drink iced coffees in bottles and cans.

New York already has the world's first "textural modified beverage": a carbonated fruit-juice base with bits of fruit and jelly floating in it.

Leading article, page 19

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|-----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|------|--|---------------|
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NISSAN

YOU CAN WITH A NISSAN

From light and fruity to sweet and medicinal

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE following are marks out of ten for a selection of adult soft drinks.

Amé Red: £1.95 for 750ml.

Like a mild and fizzy elderberry wine, made from underripe elderberries. 5.

Amé White: £1.95 for 750ml. Flavour of apricots with a light sparkle. Refreshing and pleasing when chilled. 7.

Amé Rose: £1.95 for 750ml. An impression of marshallows and rose water. Very feminine, but more palatable than most rose wine. 4.

Aqua Libra Original: £1.99 for 750ml bottle or 69p for 250ml can. Repulsive taste of rotting melons. The label's claim, "clean tasting", should be an offence under the Trade Descriptions Act. 0.

Duchy Originals No 1: £2.50 for 750ml. Raspberry-ish, not over-sweet, but somewhat medicinal. 5.

Duchy Originals No 3: £2.50 for 750ml. Calcey scent of rosemary and spices, and a taste of mulled apple juice. 4.

Liptonic Light: 56p for 330ml can. Reconstituted lemon juice. Instant tea. Aspartame. What do you expect? Only for people who would take sugar in lemon tea. The injunction "serve ice

cold" is to be taken seriously because it is not at all pleasant otherwise. 1.

Lucozade Sport: 36p for 330ml can. "Isotonic for fast fluid replacement" - great thirst-quenching taste. Water would work as well, and not have that chemical flavour of artificial oranges. 2.

Lucozade NRG: 49p for 250ml bottle. A sparkling orange and passion-fruit crush, with added "flavourings". Sweet, chemical and about as fruity as a boiled sweet. 3.

Rio Riva Light Tropical: 29p for 330ml can. Includes 10 per cent orange, guava, apricot, mango and passion-fruit juices, but the aspartame is right over the top. 2.

Purdey's: £1.15 for 250ml. Taste of dried herbs past their sell-by date, ginger, lemon and soap. If this is the elixir of life, excuse me while I expire. 1.

Original Norfolk Punch: £2.99 for 660ml bottle. Medicinal in a herby, spicy way, with cloves, grape extract and muscovado sugar the most noticeable of more than 30 ingredients listed. An acceptable non-alcoholic alternative to punch that really does have a punch. 7.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 22 1995

Alan Clark condemns police over 'foul trade'

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

ALAN CLARK, the former Defence Minister, joined a dwindling band of animal rights protesters at Dover yesterday and harangued police escorting livestock lorries into the docks.

Mr Clark watched in impatient fury as seven lorries swept past about 60 demonstrators. At one point he was ordered by the police to step back behind a steel crash barrier.

"What the hell do you think you are doing? Do you have no shame whatever in the task you are performing?" Mr Clark yelled at one officer. "This isn't law enforcement. It's not crime prevention. You are simply protecting the profits of a lot of people in the livestock industry."

"My wife Jane is in tears over this. She has seen sheep stuffed into lorries and it is most distressing. Police whinge on about resources but does it take about 400 police to protect a few lorries. It's a foul trade and all the police are doing is enforcing it. It's a complete waste of money and time. It is simply overkill."

Mr Clark, a veteran animal welfare campaigner, was one of the first people to criticise the Channel ferry companies for carrying livestock. The three biggest firms, P&O, Stena Sealink and Britany Ferries, stopped taking farm animals, except for breeding, last autumn.

The lorries rolled into the Eastern Docks just before 11am. Three of the trucks, all carrying sheep, were turned back at the quayside by Minis-

try of Agriculture officials. "One of the trucks had too many sheep in it and in the other two the animals had insufficient headroom," the ministry said.

The remaining four lorries, carrying a total of 600 calves and 300 sheep, drove on to the Cap Canaille, a roll-on, roll-off freight ferry, and sailed for Dunkirk just after noon. It was the second livestock shipment since the High Court ordered Dover Harbour Board to lift its ban on such trade, imposed on January 6.

Another livestock freighter, the Northern Cruiser, chartered by International Traders Ferry, which has been sailing out of Shoreham, West Sussex, is to undergo berthing trials in Dover today. This is the first move by other exporters to switch to the Kent port, which offers by far the most direct route across the Channel.

At Brightlingsea in Essex, five livestock trucks, one carrying calves and four sheep, were loaded for shipment to Belgium with little fuss, despite the presence of 250 demonstrators and in marked contrast to the disorder in the small port on Thursday. The police reported four arrests.

The 170 police on duty came with riot helmets, which have a reinforced plastic visor, as a precaution against a repeat of the previous day's violence, when demonstrators hurled a variety of missiles, including stones, bottles, cans and chemical-filled eggs. But, in the event, the police did not need to put on the headgear.



Mr Clark talks to animal rights protesters at Dover

Only by bringing the past alive can we be sure to keep our future free

Jonathan Sacks

FOR the past week, Jews have been observing the Passover, the festival of freedom. At its heart is the Seder service, at which we gather in our extended families and retell the Biblical story of the Exodus: the slavery of the Israelites in Egypt and their eventual liberation.

It is a ritual that has never lost its power to capture the imagination. For this is no mere recitation of events

that happened long ago and far away. We do not so much tell the story as re-enact it. We eat the unleavened bread which the Israelites ate in their hurry to leave. We taste the bitter herbs of slavery. We drink four cups of the wine of freedom. It is as if we were there.

Crede

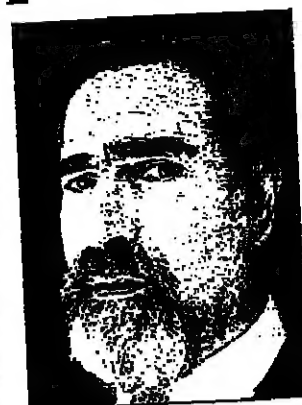
Nowhere is this more dramatically focused than in the opening words of the service: "This is the bread of affliction which our ances-

tors ate in the land of Egypt." At this point, past and present come together in a defiance of the normal categories of time. The Seder service is not so much recollection as reactualisation.

The Jews have a history longer and more remarkable than most. They were the first to find God in history and to see in the flow of time no mere random sequence of events but a coherent narrative. Paul Johnson notes that "no people has ever insisted more firmly than the Jews that history has a purpose and humanity a destiny".

It is therefore all the more striking that classical Hebrew has no word for history. When modern Hebrew searched for such a word, it borrowed it (as did English) from the Greek and came up with *historia*. Judaism was organised around something other than history. Its key word was *memory*.

Perhaps the simplest way of describing the difference is this. History is what hap-



pened to someone else. Memory is what happened to me. Memory is history internalised, the past made present to those who relive it. Through personal identification with the great moments of the past, they become part of what makes us who we are. We become characters in a continuing story which began before we were born and will continue after we have ceased to be. In this sense, Passover is the festival in which history becomes memory.

The result is that the story of the Exodus continued, through successive generations, to move people to strive for freedom. A hundred years ago it moved Theodor Herzl to envision a return of Jews to their Biblical homeland. Fifty-two years ago it moved the Jews of the Warsaw ghetto to make a defiant stand against a Nazi regime built on the denial of freedom. That is the power of memory when it is kept alive.

That, too, is the importance of the act of remembering in which we will engage as a nation when we recall the fiftieth anniversary of VE-Day. If we are to cherish freedom and to guard it, we must remind a new generation of the alternative: the bread of affliction and the bitter herbs of slavery. Children must learn how European freedom was fought for and painfully won: not in vengeance nor in hate, but simply to know what matters enough to need constant vigilance. Memory is our best guardian of liberty.

Dr Jonathan Sacks is the Chief Rabbi.

At Your Service, Weekend, page 2

Councils to assess needs of 7m carers

By VICTORIA WALKER

THE MILLIONS of unpaid carers who look after the sick, old and disabled could receive more help from local authorities after a Commons vote yesterday.

A private member's Bill that will oblige town halls to channel more money to people who care for members of their family without at present receiving help from social services passed its final Commons hurdle with the backing of all sides. The Carers (Recognition and Services) Bill, sponsored by Malcolm Wicks, Labour MP for Croydon North West, is likely to pass through the Lords unopposed and become law by the autumn.

During yesterday's debate, Mr Wicks said it was no longer good enough to "put carers on the back and tell them they're doing a wonderful job". Nearly seven million carers save the country an estimated £30 billion a year.

Nature site bought to block housing

By NICK NUTTALL

A COUNCIL has compulsorily purchased a nature site for the first time to protect it from property developers.

The firm had tried for five years to build a housing estate at Royate Hill, two miles from the centre of Bristol and home to badgers and rare plants. The development was opposed by the council and the plans were rejected by the Environment Secretary four years ago after a public inquiry. But nearly a year later contractors employed by the developers, Beechgold, arrived to clear the site. They were only halted by a court injunction.

Avon County Council then said it wanted to designate Royate Hill a Local Nature Reserve and served a compulsory purchase order in December 1993 but the developers objected. Yesterday John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, upheld the council's order.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 22 1995

Every step of the Way is recorded for posterity

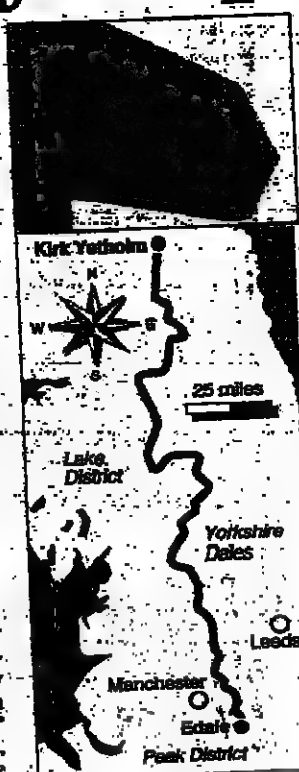
By KATE ALDERSON

DETAILS have been recorded of every step, stile and gate along the 256 miles of the Pennine Way, which is 30 years old on Monday, to ensure the vulnerable footpath survives into the next century.

Finance permitting, the data will be computerised to help conservation workers to plan a rolling programme of maintenance from Edale in the Peak District to Kirk Yetholm in the Scottish borders.

The Pennine Way, a tough and wild walk along the backbone of England, was the first official long-distance footpath to be created in Britain and opened after a 30-year campaign by Tom Stephenson, a famous walker and secretary of the Ramblers' Association for many years. Stephenson's vision was of a "long green trail" winding across the moors, fells and valleys of the Pennines.

His idea blossomed the spirit of an age in which hill walking was enjoying great popularity by the outbreak of war. A Pennine Way Association was formed, which began to lobby for the route.



Since it officially opened, hundreds of thousands of walkers have stomped along the most popular parts of the path. The damage they have caused, aggravated by nature, prompted a big repair

project, started in 1989 by the Countryside Commission.

The Pennine Way Co-ordination Project, which has cost £3 million and involves about a hundred workers at any one time, will end next year after successfully halting damage that many walkers thought was irreparable.

Anne Glover is the project's assistant co-ordinator. She said: "We have managed to put right most of the hideous erosion and the remainder, mostly in the Peak District, will be carried out this summer. A lot of people think the Pennine Way is just one big boggy mess, but most of it is actually in very good shape."

"It is important that we plan the next phase and work out how we will maintain the most famous long-distance footpath in the country."

Rangers from the seven separate highways authorities and the three national parks are responsible for the upkeep of the Pennine Way and regularly collect information on the condition of the route.

"However, this information is not centrally held," Ms Glover said. "We plan to have a co-ordinated databank which we can then computerise, funding permitting."



A generation of walkers has faced the challenge of Pen-y-ghent, North Yorkshire, at 2,273ft a high point of the Pennine Way

The computerised Pennine Way would be based on information collected in two complete surveys of the route, one carried out five years ago and the other last summer. It would be updated with rangers' inspections and be a "living computerised replica"

of the changing footpath. Detailed conservation work could then be accurately planned into the future.

"Each section of the path is graded by us and we have detail on how worn, how wide and how trampled it is," Ms Glover said. "We know

what each style is made from."

There are no thirtieth anniversary celebrations, although thousands of walkers will be on the Way this weekend, paying their tribute to Stephenson's vision. Every year 10,000 walkers complete

the route, while tens of thousands more tackle sections. A fossil deposit 250 million years old has been scorched by fire and ruined by graffiti in an attack of vandalism (Paul Wilkinson writes). The pure limestone walls of Byer's Hole near Whitburn

on south Tyneside contain the remains of early microscopic creatures. Peter Collins of the National Trust, which administers the site, said it had been obliterated by smoke and slogans.

Letters, page 19

Mink invasion poses threat to countryside

By MICHAEL HORNERY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN mink, descendants of animals imported from the United States 75 years ago for fur farming, have colonised most of Britain and are preying on native wildlife ill-equipped to deal with the invader.

In four decades, the population of mink living in the wild has grown to 110,000, according to the first complete census of British mammals. They outnumber the native otter, another member of the weasel family for which they are often mistaken, by 15 to one.

Escapes of mink occurred almost immediately after being brought to Britain in 1920 but made little impact until after the Second World War when the number of mink farms grew dramatically. During the 1970s and 1980s, fur sales slumped under the influence of animal rights campaigns, bankrupting hundreds of small-scale mink farmers, many of whom turned their stock into the countryside.

Andrew Robathan, Tory MP for Blaby, considers the mink to be such a danger to native fauna that he presented a private member's Bill to the Commons at the end of last month to eradicate it from Britain. "They are rapidly destroying the water vole population, as well as having a

significant effect on game and coarse fishing," he told MPs.

But Nigel Dunstone, a zoologist at Durham University who has studied mink for 20 years, thinks Mr Robathan is being over-cautious. "The mink certainly has an adaptable diet and will eat a wide range of prey, but the water vole seems to be the only animal seriously affected," he said.

"Even in the case of the vole, loss of suitable riverside habitat has probably contributed as much to its decline."

Dr Dunstone believes the mink population may now have stopped growing or even be declining, particularly where otters are making a comeback.

There is no dispute that mink can be a serious local threat. On Lewis and Harris in the Outer Hebrides, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Western Isles Council have set up a mink control group to stop the creatures spreading.

There is a precedent for eradicating an alien. During the 1980s, Ministry of Agriculture trappers succeeded in exterminating the coypu, a large rodent of South American origin which was also introduced to Britain earlier this century for its fur. But the coypu was largely confined to East Anglia, making it an easier target.

Morris Gosling, director of the Institute of Zoology at London Zoo, is one of the few experts who think eradication of the much more widespread mink could be achieved, but would probably cost up to £20 million. "But as a first step, more research is needed into the impact mink is having on native wildlife," he said.

Most ecologists, however, think the mink is here to stay, like that other American immigrant, the grey squirrel.



The American mink

Aliens that came and colonised

OVER the centuries many exotic species of animal have been imported to Britain, but it is only quite recently that the ecological dangers have been recognised. Releasing alien species into the wild is now prohibited under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981.

Rabbits (*Citellus campestris*) introduced by Normans in 12th century. At first farmed in mixed warrens for fur and meat. Became widespread in countryside in 18th and 19th century. A menace to farmers but rabbit grazing helped to preserve chalk grassland and heathland. Now about 37 million, a third of pre-mycxomatosis level. Eats £100 million of farm crops a year.

Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) introduced in 17th century as ornamental bird.

Notorious for carpet bombing of parks, golf courses and lakesides with huge volumes of corrosive excreta capable of breaking up asphalt paths. At least 4000 and growing.

Grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) introduced to ward off pest of last century. More adaptable, and better at finding food, than native red

squirrel, which it has displaced from most of England. Now more than 2.5 million, compared with 160,000 reds.

Muntjac deer (*Musellus reevesi*) small deer. Native of China. Introduced in 1894 to Woburn Park. Population in wild now 40,000 and growing fast, mainly in southern England. Threat to young woodland and woodland flowers.

Ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) imported in 1948 by Sir Peter Scott for his wildfowl centre. Escaped into wild in 1950s. Little problem here. But some have crossed the Channel and are inter-breeding with the much rarer, white-headed duck, which is in danger of being "hybridised" into extinction.

New Zealand flatworm (*Arthropoda irrorata*) probably hitched a ride here on imported plants in 1960s. First found in Scotland. Now also in northern England and Wales. Eats the native earthworm, which drains and ventilates soil and is food for many birds and mammals. The flatworm is inedible.

Outdoors, Weekend, page 17

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Agony aunt confronts own professional problems over conflict of interest accusations

Minister told to quit or sever ties with Fiat

ITALIAN feminists rejoiced when Susanna Agnelli became the country's first woman Foreign Minister 100 days ago. Signora Agnelli, who is 73 on Monday, has kept up her many philanthropic interests despite her official duties. Every week, for example, "Sun" puts aside diplomacy to reply to contributors to her agony column in the magazine Oggi.

Paolo from Rome seeks advice about his fiancée who has returned to Croatia and wants to end their engagement. "Don't see her again," Signora Agnelli advises. "Keep the

ROME FILE

by JOHN PHILLIPS



memory of a very beautiful story that lasted only ten months." Lilliana from Genoa does not want to buy a new dress for the wedding of a cousin but her mother insists she should impress their relative's future mother-in-law.

"What does your cousin's mother-in-law care about your wardrobe?" Signora Agnelli asks.

"Dress as you like. I am sure you will be elegant."

"Anonymous" from Novara writes: "I am 65, with a married son and a marriage practically finished. I am in love with someone else of my age, who will not succumb to this feeling because she says that we are committing a sin. How can I convince her that in old age these scruples should not exist?" Signora Agnelli replies: "She is perfectly right. The wrong to your wife would be even worse now, precisely because of your age."

Not everyone is happy with the enhanced influence of the agony aunt. Enrico La Loggia, the chief whip of the Forza Italia party, accuses the Foreign Minister of a conflict of interest because of her shares in the holding company that controls Fiat, the industrial empire run by her brother Gianni, who is seen as the uncrowned king of Italy. Parliament is examining a



Susanna Agnelli, whose appointment was applauded by Italian feminists, with her grandson

Bill to force Silvio Berlusconi, the Forza Italia leader and former Prime Minister, to sell his television channels or place them in an American-style trust. "If the law comes into force immediately, Susanna Agnelli will have to decide whether to resign or sell her stake

in Fiat," Signor La Loggia says. The press sniggered when she began an official Latin American tour with a visit to Argentina, where her son, Cristiano Ranzani, has extensive business interests and where a £370 million Fiat plant is expected to be built. Signora Agnelli has indicated

that she will step down before Italy assumes the chairmanship of the European Union next year. Then she can devote more time to the woes of the readers of Oggi, which belongs to the Rizzoli publishing empire which is controlled by her brother.

Time flies for 'baby' reborn

WHEN Cristina Lanzoni endured nine months of complete isolation in an underground chamber, she said she felt she was in the womb and was ready to be born again: a little prematurely, as far as she was concerned.

Signora Lanzoni, 29, entered the chamber, known as Underlab, in the Frasassi caves in central Italy on July 26 last year for a scientific experiment to monitor the effects of total isolation. Her lonely 269 days ended this week when the project controllers sent her a message on a computer link telling her the date and the time. "Oh my God," she replied. She had thought it was October 31, 1994.

Scientists said Signora Lanzoni abandoned adult sleep patterns in Underlab, adopting those of a newborn infant which falls immediately into deep sleep. She was due to return to the surface late last night.

Berlusconi pins hopes on local elections

By JOHN PHILLIPS

SILVIO BERLUSCONI'S expectations that he will win control of 13 of the 15 Italian regions holding elections tomorrow are likely to be dashed. The polls are the first such measure of the national mood since Signor Berlusconi, the media tycoon, resigned as Prime Minister last year after he was placed under investigation on suspicion of corruption.

Only a right-wing landslide would be likely to persuade President Scalfaro to call a general election before the summer, but most observers looking at private polls commissioned by Signor Berlusconi believe his Freedom Alliance will win control in no more than nine regions.

In that case, the head-of-state would be unlikely to call a general election before the autumn. Lamberto Dini, the technocrat Prime Minister, will be watching the outcome closely to see whether his Cabinet can survive until December before Italy takes over the chairmanship of the European Union.

Voting is being held in every region except those with special autonomous statutes — Val d'Aosta, Trentino Alto Adige, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Sicily and Sardinia.

Pyramid sales chief on trial

Cluj: The head of the Caritas pyramid investment scheme, which collapsed after taking at least £625 million from more than four million Romanians, appeared in court yesterday on fraud charges.

Ion Stoica, once hailed by Romanians as a "saviour", faces up to 20 years in jail. His trial is the first of several into the scheme. (Reuters)

Hitler riots

Bonn: More than 60 German neo-Nazis were arrested in riots marking the 50th anniversary of Hitler's last birthday, police said. Earlier, 27 rioters were arrested in Nuremberg. (Reuters)

Inquiry closed

Oslo: Norwegian police are closing their inquiry into the shooting of Salman Rushdie's publisher, William Nygard, after failing to find conclusive evidence of a link to Iran. (Reuters)

Skiers rescued

Moscow: Eight members of the Russian women's skiing team, Metelitsa, bound for the North Pole, were safely evacuated after they found themselves on a drifting ice floe. It was reported. (AP)

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Chirac prays for classic showdown with Left

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Strong protest vote for fringe presidential candidates expected from disgruntled electors

Chirac prays for classic showdown with Left

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

FRANCE starts ringing down the curtain on the Mitterrand era tomorrow when voters pick two presidential contenders. Attention is focused on the battle for second place between Edouard Balladur, the Gaullist Prime Minister, and Lionel Jospin, the Socialist.

Private polls in recent days have shown Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader and Paris Mayor, holding his lead, with about 26 per cent, while M. Balladur has drawn almost level with M. Jospin at about

20 per cent. However, after the most unpredictable campaign in the 30-year history of the modern presidency, no candidate was banking on the outcome. The contest will end with a May 7 run-off.

Relatively strong scores are expected for two of the six "protest" candidates. Jean-Marie Le Pen of the far-right National Front is rating about 14 per cent and Robert Hue, leader of the largely unformed French Communist Party, could reach 10 per cent.

M. Chirac, 62, whose dynamic campaign marks an extraordinary return from the political wilderness, appealed to supporters at a closing rally at Vincennes. "Nothing is decided. Right up to the last minute, we must convince those who are hesitating."

The record level of last-minute indecision, put at 20 per cent by polls, reflects a sense of disillusion with all the main candidates in a race that has neglected the grand issues beloved of French politics.

Most glaringly, consensus over deeper European union has kept the topic beyond debate. "The campaign which we have just witnessed will be



Jacques Chirac, left, face to face with his Gaullist presidential rival, Edouard Balladur, at a Paris ceremony where the ashes of Pierre and Marie Curie, the pioneer radiologists, were transferred to the Pantheon

meagre help for guiding the next President into the new millennium," the left-leaning *Le Monde* said yesterday.

The initial shape of a Chirac presidency, if it comes about, will be heavily dictated by the

choice of challenger tomorrow. He is praying that his opponent is M. Jospin. The run-off would then become a classic Left-Right duel of the kind seen in every campaign except 1969 and which was

won in 1981 and 1988 by President Mitterrand. Polls suggest that M. Chirac would cruise home, if only because France is in no mood for a Socialist after the long and sorry twilight of the

Mitterrand years. M. Chirac could then rally the Right and start healing the wounds inflicted by the Balladur rebellion.

Leading article, page 19

FRENCH ELECTION

Green's feminist passions given a cool reception

FROM JOANNA PYTMAN IN PARIS

THE French electoral lists feature few women candidates but one with a distinctive platform is Dominique Voynet.

She stands for the Greens and is out to appeal to the feminists. A passionate campaigner for environmental issues in her late thirties, Mme Voynet has harnessed as her own the one sentiment conspicuously absent from the platforms of her rivals: the issue of sexual equality.

"She's the only one who has taken anything like a responsible line on jobs, welfare, support for women. She's the only one in whom women can feel confident," says a member of the *Maison de Femmes*, a militant feminist pressure group.

But being the only candidate with feminist appeal (the other woman, Arlette Laguiller, is from the Trotskyist Workers Party—a singular looking dame who brims with talk of revolutionary combat and sees no distinction between male or female supporters as long as they are

co-workers in arms) is not necessarily the ticket to success in France.

The feminist movement is in a state of crisis, according to the *Maison de Femmes*. Too many working women are interested in only getting on with their jobs and refuse to join the militant struggle. Sounds familiar.

While this election is of course momentous, a crucial turning point in French political history representing the end of the Mitterrand era, its tone is nevertheless listing a little towards the shabby end of the spectrum. Each of the candidates has

adopted a scatter-gun approach, avoiding specifics on matters of policy wherever possible (because they are at a loss to distinguish their own imperative on the key issue of unemployment) and attempting, with a huge Gallic cynicism that has not gone undetected by the electorate, to appeal to the broadest possible majority.

All that is, except for Robert Hue, the candidate of the Communist Party, a rank ideologue with an image of sartorial dereliction to match his politics and a groundswell

of support among the diminishing ranks of the age-old French intellectuals of the Left.

If the bars of the sixth arrondissement are anything to go by, French democracy is in a healthy condition, bursting with zeal for debate, characterised by sage yet sceptical listening until the post-prandial brandy-inspired insults begin to fly. Pride alone in their status as members of the dying breed of the Parisian intellectuals demands that these tourist-attraction artisans vote for M. Hue.

UN chief 'to back troop cuts' in Croatia

FROM REUTERS IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros Ghali, was reported to be due last night to recommend a plan to cut the number of UN troops in Croatia from 12,000 to 8,750.

Dr Boutros Ghali, who had failed to win approval from the Zagreb Government and rebel Serbs on where the troops should be deployed, said the Security Council had no option but to adopt the plan. He said "the alternative to its adoption would be the withdrawal of UN forces and the resumption of war."

The Security Council changed the name and duties of the UN contingent on March 31 after President Tudjman of Croatia threatened to evict all UN troops. The mandate was, however, left deliberately vague, with instructions for UN officials to negotiate key details.

The report also proposes for the first time that UN forces in Croatia monitor the "human rights of individuals and communities."

In Germany yesterday, an extradition order was approved for Dusan Tadic, a Bosnian Serb, paving the way for him to become the first defendant at an international war-crimes tribunal since the aftermath of the Second World War. Tadic, 38, is accused of killing, raping, beating and torturing Croats and Muslims during Serb "ethnic cleansing" of Bosnia's Prijedor region.



Tadic accused of "ethnic cleansing"

Forgotten hero Zhukov rides back to Moscow in triumph

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN MOSCOW

FIFTY years after riding in triumph through the capital of the country he saved from the Nazi invaders, Marshal Georgi Zhukov, the Soviet Union's greatest military commander, will sit astride his favourite horse again.

A crane will today lower the huge bronze figure of Zhukov onto the horse that is to stand on a pedestal in the centre of Moscow. The strategic genius, who throughout the communist period was never given official acclaim, is being honoured as the victor of the Second World War.

The jealousy of Stalin and Khrushchev and communist concern that the national hero would eclipse the party's standing had virtually elim-

inated Zhukov from popular memory; now, his statue, by Vyacheslav Kiykov, is to be unveiled on May 8, he is praised in every newspaper and huge portraits hang from public buildings. More than any figure from the communist past, the memory of the man who won the battle of Stalingrad is cherished by grateful popular sentiment.

Zhukov has frequently been compared with Kutuzov, the general who defeated Napoleon. Appropriately, after more than 15 years of vacillation, Russia's gigantic memorial to the Second World War is being completed beside the Borodino arch on the edge of the city, which will itself be unveiled on May 9.



Vyacheslav Kiykov cleans part of his Zhukov statue

Kremlin insists that Yeltsin 'is better'

FROM REUTERS IN MOSCOW

THE Kremlin's chief spokesman, acting to quell a wave of speculation that President Yeltsin was unwell, said yesterday that the Russian leader's health was improving.

However, Sergei Medvedev acknowledged that Mr Yeltsin was suffering from high blood pressure, which can cause sporadic muscle weakness, and was taking drugs to control his condition.

"The President's doctors have come to the conclusion that [his] health is better," Mr Medvedev said in a rare statement on the subject. "He is able to maintain the physical activity and capacity to work at a level which corresponds to his age." A series of recent stumbling public ap-

pearances by the 64-year-old President have revived speculation that he could be ill.

Mr Medvedev said he issued the statement to counter a spate of recent "rumours and blatant speculation", many of which had started since Mr Yeltsin went on a three-week holiday last month. "Those political leaders who have launched their pre-election campaigns for the presidential seat have started actively using [the rumours]," he said.

The protracted Chechenia conflict, which began while Mr Yeltsin was in hospital for ten days, has reduced his popularity. There is no guarantee he would be re-elected if he decides to stand for the presidency next year.



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US moves to save Korea nuclear pact

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration yesterday offered to upgrade negotiations with North Korea in an urgent attempt to save last October's international accord, ending Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme.

The offer came as North Korean negotiators terminated talks with mid-level US officials in Berlin and flew home, fuelling American fears that North Korea would now end the freeze on its nuclear weapons programme that it has observed for the past six months.

But Kim Jong U, head of the North Korean delegation, blamed the "rupture" on "inflexible and unreasonable" US demands, and suggested nothing would be gained by higher-level talks. "We think everything that could be discussed in high-level talks has already been discussed and settled," he said. North Korea

had made yesterday its deadline for reaching agreement on implementation of October's accord, but US negotiators were unable to surmount Pyongyang's refusal to accept two safe new civil nuclear reactors from its old enemy, South Korea, in place of an existing reactor that produces weapons-grade plutonium.

The offer of higher-level talks in Geneva, designed to exploit North Korea's hunger for international recognition, was made by Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, after urgent consultations with Japan and South Korea. He insisted that the dispute over South Korea's involvement was "not an insoluble problem" and urged North Korea not to proceed with its threats to begin refuelling its existing reactor.

Another senior US official insisted that the situation was "still fluid", but there was no disguising the Administration's anxiety. The Pentagon



Warren: dispute "not insoluble"

disclosed on Thursday that maintenance teams had been seen entering the five-megawatt reactor at Yongbyon and said that any effort to restart it would violate the accord and be regarded by the US as a "very, very serious step". The State Department said that "if North Korea breaks the freeze

... we would consult with our allies about returning this issue to the UN Security Council, including the possibility of seeking sanctions".

North Korea, which has a huge military force stretched along its southern border, has in the past threatened to respond to sanctions by attacking South Korea.

Under last October's agreement, North Korea agreed to shut down the Yongbyon reactor and eventually dismantle all its present nuclear facilities in return for two new light-water reactors worth \$4 billion (£2.5 billion) that do not produce weapons-grade plutonium. Though it was not formally written into the framework agreement, America believed it had a clear understanding that South Korea would take the lead in building and financing the new reactors.

Indeed, Seoul agreed to provide the bulk of the finance only on condition that it

supplied the reactors, but the Americans have once again found it impossible to pin down the North Koreans.

Pyongyang has refused to accept South Korean reactors for what it called "reasons of political and technical safety". It is reluctant to acknowledge the South's superior technical abilities, fears Seoul would include spies among the thousands of technicians needed to build the reactors, and does not want South Korea, which dreams of Korean unification, to gain control of a key sector of its economy.

While some of North Korea's objections may be genuine, many US experts fear Pyongyang has been stringing the West along for the past few years while drawing ever closer to its goal of obtaining nuclear weapons.

Seoul: Russia will repay part of a \$1.47 billion debt to South Korea with raw materials and high-tech military goods, the Seoul Government

said yesterday.

The deal, reached after seven days of talks in Seoul, covers \$457 million of the debt — \$387.5 million in principal payment and \$69.5 million in interest, the Ministry of Finance and Economy said.

South Korea agreed in 1990 to lend \$3 billion in cash and goods to the Soviet Union in a deal linked to the establishment of diplomatic ties. Only \$1.47 billion was turned over before the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. Moscow failed to make interest payments in 1992 and Seoul halted disbursements.

Russia has agreed to send South Korea tanks, armoured vehicles, portable anti-tank guided missiles, anti-aircraft missiles and ammunition worth \$228.1 million, the Defense Ministry said. It will also turn over \$22.5 million in civilian helicopters and \$225.35 million of aluminium, steel and other raw materials. (AP)

Mexico the new 'drugs highway' to US

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN MIAMI

INVESTIGATIONS into a series of high-profile assassinations in Mexico have highlighted the growing power and violence of local drug cartels.

Mexican cartels now control what has become a new drugs "highway", estimated to account for 70 per cent of the cocaine consumed in the US. "The Mexican cartels have come of age," said a senior American official.

Experts say Mexico is on the verge of becoming another Colombia, where drug traffickers have allegedly infiltrated all levels of government to win protection for their trade.

America is beefing up controls along the 2,000-mile border with Mexico as a last line of defence. But securing the border is a difficult task. Officials say drug traffickers use blow torches to burn garage-size holes in the 12-foot-high corrugated-steel border fence — then drive trucks loaded with cocaine through them.

According to drug experts, there are dozens of Mexican drug gangs operating along the border, which break down into three main cartels.

The Tijuana cartel operates on the border with California and is suspected of the May 1993 killing of the Roman Catholic Cardinal, Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo, in Guadalajara. "The cardinal got in the way because he knew too much," the US official said.

The Juárez cartel dominates the central area, bordering on New Mexico.

The Gulf territory extends along the Texas border in the states of Nuevo León and Tamaulipas. Its boss, Juan García Abrego, 50, is seen as a Mexican Pablo Escobar, the former Colombian baron who died in a shoot-out with police in December 1993. In March, García Abrego was placed on a list of America's ten most wanted criminals, and the US offered a \$2 million reward for his arrest.

Mexico's cartels were created in the last decade through ties to the Colombian cocaine barons, principally the Cali cartel. In the 1980s, as the demand for cocaine rose in the US, Mexico became more attractive for the Colombian traffickers. A US-led crackdown on trafficking routes in the Caribbean forced the cartels to explore new routes.



Jews in Jerusalem on the last day of Passover yesterday shut their ears to hymns sung by Christians observing the Orthodox Good Friday

Land takeover protects test site

US Air Force drives snoopers away

THE US Air Force, determined to develop its successor to the B2 stealth bomber in total secrecy, has taken control of nearly 4,000 acres of Nevada upland to deprive the public of two vantage points from which it was possible to glimpse America's most sensitive military test site.

Known variously as Area 51, Groom Lake and Dreamland, although the Pentagon denies that it has a name, this lake bed 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas is thought to be the main proving ground for a new high-altitude aircraft.

Although little is known about the new aircraft, sometimes referred to as Aurora, it is common knowledge among civilians who have visited the perimeter of the site that their presence has frustrated the Air Force, interrupting testing programmes and requiring the sending of employees from the site to discourage snooping. Hundreds have made the trip from Las Vegas in recent

months, according to Glenn Campbell, self-appointed director of the Area 51 Research Centre.

The existence of the site was not acknowledged by the Pentagon in its request to the Federal Bureau of Land Management, Mr Campbell says.

Instead its application for control of the popular vantage points was said to be "for the public safety and the safe and secure operation of activities in the Nellis Range complex", a reference to Nevada's well-known nuclear test site.

From now on, civilians who

used to scramble with infrared night sights, telescopes and powerful binoculars to White Sands and Freedom Ridge, two peaks that are about 13 miles from the site, will not be able to get any closer than 25 miles from the aircraft test site.



Lawyers win £4.3m from Warhol estate

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN NEW YORK

A MANHATTAN judge has put a price on Andy Warhol's 15 minutes of fame by awarding more than \$7 million (£4.3 million) to two lawyers who worked for the artist's estate.

Edward Hayes claimed he had agreed to work for the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts for a percentage of the value of the estate. That left Judge Eve Preninger with the problem of working out precisely how much Warhol's art

collection is worth at today's prices. She came up with the figure of \$309.9 million, including not just Warhol's pop art, but property and other investments — a sum more than twice the estimate made by the foundation.

The flamboyant Mr Hayes, who was the model for the character Tom Killian in Tom Wolfe's novel *Bonfire of the Vanities*, and his colleague, Francis Harvey, claimed that the Warhol foundation was deliberately undervaluing its collection. Mr Hayes, who began working for the foundation soon after War-

hol's death in 1987, says he was promised at least 2 per cent of the estate's worth. The foundation said the lawyer, who had been fired, had already been overpaid.

The Warhol collection includes 700 paintings, 9,000 drawings and 66,000 photographs. Rather than calculate the award on a percentage basis alone, which would have come to more than \$10 million, the judge took into account "the quality of the work and the results obtained". That, she decided, came to \$7.2 million, plus \$250,000 for expenses. Lawyers for the foundation are to appeal.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Winnie Mandela 'very ill'

Johannesburg: Winnie Mandela is seriously ill, according to the Johannesburg clinic where she is being treated (Michael Hamlyn writes).

The former deputy minister and estranged wife of President Mandela, was admitted to the private clinic on Tuesday for what her family said would be rest and a general examination. But a statement issued yesterday by Dr Peter Kalish, managing director of the clinic, said her condition — "serious but stable" — was not related to stress "or any other psychosomatic disorder".

Raid on Tigers

Colombo: Navy gunboats and patrol boats bombarded a Tamil Tigers' rebel base in the northern peninsula of Jaffna at dawn. Eleven sailors were killed by a Tigers' suicide squad on Wednesday.

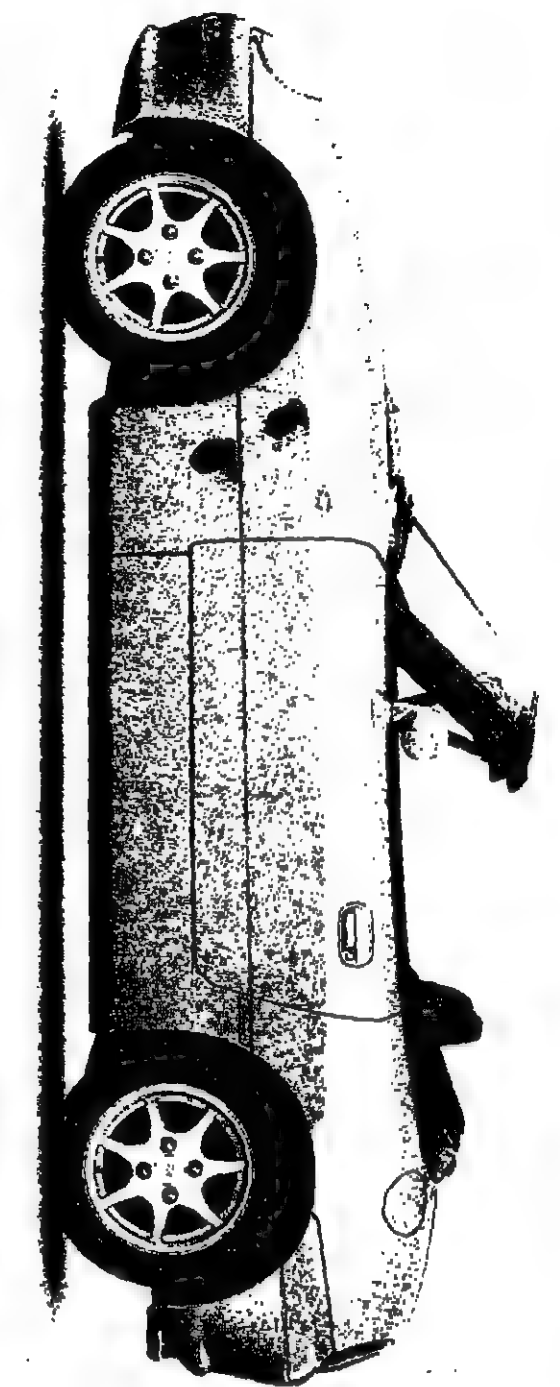
22 Hutus shot

Kigali: Rwandan government troops killed 22 Hutus and wounded about 50 when they opened fire in a filthy, overcrowded camp in southwestern Rwanda, aid agency officials said. (Reuters)

Fumes hit port

Corpus Christi, Texas: Fumes from a barge forced thousands of workers to evacuate buildings close to this port after it collided with a British tanker, the *Maersk Shetland*, in Corpus Christi Bay. (AP)

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Japanese shoppers flee store amid panic over fumes

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

FEAR of renewed threats of terrorism gripped Japan last night after noxious fumes spread through a department store in Yokohama, near the railway station where more than 500 people were affected on Wednesday by toxic fumes.

In yesterday's incident, about 17 shoppers, including five schoolgirls, in the Yokohama Vivre 21 department store were taken to hospital with sore throats and stinging eyes after reporting a bad smell on the store's third floor. None was seriously injured.

The department store closed immediately for inspection by military chemical experts and police investigators. However, no further details of the substance involved, or whether it was linked to Wednesday's incident, were available.

Japanese news reports said the fumes may have originated from a malfunctioning air-conditioning system. Many commentators suggested last night, however, that Aum

Shinrikyo, the cult implicated in the March poison gas attack on Tokyo's subway system, was responsible.

Reports of the incident increased tension in Tokyo. Coming as it did on the eve of a weekend and shortly before the Japanese take off for a string of national holidays known as "Golden Week", the incident will dampen participation in normal leisure activities.

News that Shoko Asahara, the near-blind leader of Aum Shinrikyo, is about to publish a book of his thoughts since the Tokyo attack, added to anxiety. Mr Asahara disappeared from the cult's main compound after the March 20 attack and is now in hiding.

Mr Asahara's book, according to early reports, contains veiled threats and dire prophecies about the police, the media and lawyers who have criticised Aum Shinrikyo. The book claims that the cult had nothing to do with the Tokyo

attack, or the kidnappings and other illegal activities of which it has been accused.

The cult leader admits in his book, *Pity for Japan, a Ruinous Nation*, that he has a serious illness. A cult spokesman has said that he could have a terminal illness as a result of gas attacks on the cult by "the Japanese Government and the American military".

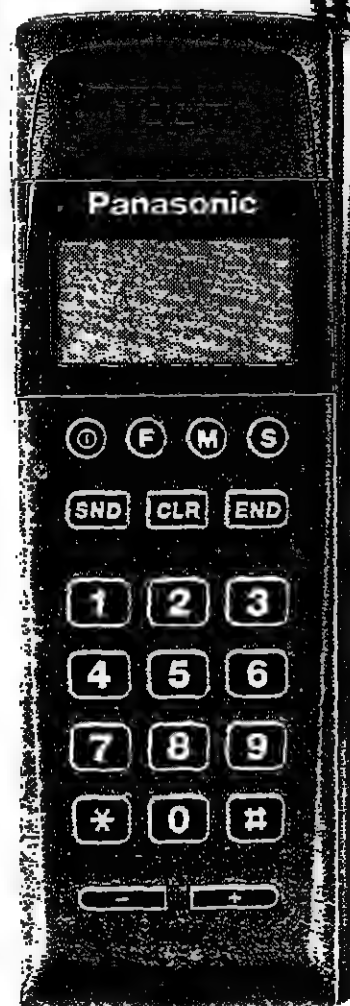
Mr Asahara said he had intended to remain silent after the subway attack, but was speaking up because of "all the illegal arrests and accusations" against cult members. He claims that the media, which he says is "controlled by the Government", will incur the "anger of the deities", and that evil will befall the police and the state, due to "repression of an innocent religious organisation".

Referring to lawyers who lead an anti-Aum association, Mr Asahara said they would "roam in hell or go to the animal world after they die".



Rescue workers attempt yesterday to move part of the Howrah Bridge in Calcutta, which collapsed into the River Ganges at high tide, killing at least 23 people and injuring more than 50 others. A number of the bodies swept away by the river were still to be recovered.

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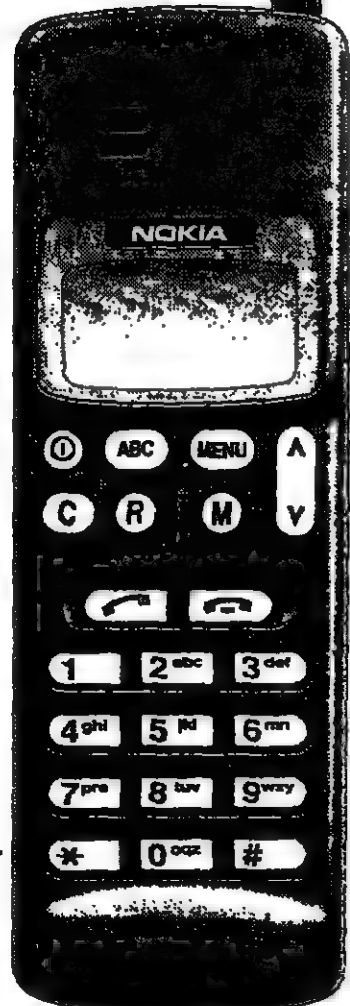
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Vietnam mother's pain lingers as war images fade

FROM JAMES FRINGLE IN TRANG BANG, VIETNAM

Today it is hard to associate the peaceful scene around the yellow stupa on Cao Dai temple in Vietnam's Tay Ninh province with bloodshed and death. Nevertheless, it was here that the tragedy of the Vietnam War was once so unforgettable captured on film: nine-year-old Phan Thi Kim Phuc was photographed running in agony for her life after tearing off her burning clothes when the temple was hit by napalm.

But to Duong Ngoc Nu, Kim Phuc's mother, the memory of those terrible days in 1972 are still vivid as communist Vietnam prepares to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the fall of Saigon. Victory parades or not, it is the events of June 1972 that still preoccupy Mrs Ngoc Nu, 63. "The day the 'oil-bombs' fell seems just like yesterday," she said yesterday.

She was speaking in her run-down straw and bamboo house behind the temple of the Cao Dai sect, one of the more obscure of Vietnam's exotic mix of religions. It has a "pope" and female cardinals and includes Churchill and Victor Hugo among its saints.

Mrs Ngoc Nu and her husband have not seen Kim Phuc, now 32, for five years. Only recently, in a new and strange twist to the drama that befell the tiny Vietnamese girl in an obscure village, she learnt that her daughter is in Canada after escaping from Cuba, where she had been sent by the Vietnamese authorities to take part in a continuing propaganda effort and be educated.

Kim Phuc recently gave birth to a son named Thomas. Mrs Ngoc Nu said, wistfully wondering if she will ever see her grandson. She and her husband receive only a little food for looking after the temple overlooking Vietnam's Highway One. Perhaps, nobody should be too surprised at the violence that once occurred here, since Graham Greene wrote about Highway One in Tay Ninh in his 1955 book, *The Quiet American*, still regarded as a classic on the war because of its remarkable prescience.

Greene's protagonist, the journalist Fowler, had to spend a frightening night, probably near this roadside village, when his car broke down. Then, the enemy forces in the rice paddies were the Viet Minh, whose successes in the end won the war for

North Vietnam's leader, Ho Chi Minh.

This was the same road that the North Vietnamese army advanced down in June 1972, prompting South Vietnam to send in Skylanders to drop napalm on the temple, which housed not the enemy but Mrs Ngoc Nu and her family.

The picture of Kim Phuc, taken by Associated Press photographer Nick Ut, became world famous only by chance, according to Horst Faas, then AP's Vietnam picture chief. At the time female frontal nudity, even in a child, was not normally accepted for transmission to newspapers around the world.

But when he went through pictures that had been rejected by a deputy in his Saigon bureau, Faas decided the image was too powerful to be ignored.

In the end the Pulitzer-prize winning photograph was one of the Vietnam War's most powerful images, with that of a self-immolating Buddhist monk, the South Vietnamese police chief summarily executing a suspected Vietcong during the Tet offensive of 1968 and terrified Vietnamese trying to reach an American helicopter atop a building in Saigon as South Vietnam fell apart.

As she served a visitor a glass of water in her humble home, Mrs Ngoc Nu said: "I remember the 'oil-bombs' beginning to fall and then picking up the children, including two baby nieces and running. Some napalm hit the babies even while they were in my arms and they fell from my grasp. "I bent down to pick up the babies, but they just crumpled away in my hands and there was nothing left. For eight days we were continually running with very little food to sustain us. I prayed to the Lord Buddha, that we be spared and in the end we were saved, but there has been little happiness in life since then."

She said she had recently obtained Kim's Canadian address but when she went to the newly opened post office in Trang Bang to post a letter she was told it would cost \$20 (£12.50). That is the sum that the Vietnamese Government provides for her and her husband to live on — for a year. "We do not have access to that kind of money so I was not able to send Kim Phuc a letter," she said.



Kim Phuc fleeing a US napalm attack in 1972. She now lives in Canada but her mother remains in Vietnam

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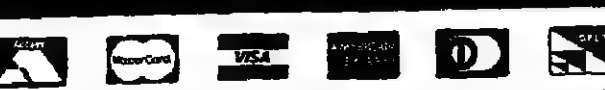
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Hired vehicle not in ownership

Salford Van Hire (Contractors) Ltd v Bocholtz Developments Ltd

Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Hirst and Sir Ralph Gibson

A commercial vehicle that was in the possession of a company under a hiring agreement was not in the "ownership" of that company when distraint was levied on it for defaulting in paying the rent for its premises.

Simple inquiries to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre would have satisfied the bailiffs as to the ownership of the vehicle. It was thus outside the scope of section 4(1) of the Law of Distress (Amendment) Act 1968 and could not be subject to distraint.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments allowing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Salford Van Hire (Contractors) Ltd, from the dismissal of their claim for damages of £5,100 against the defendants, Bocholtz Developments Ltd, the landlords of the company's premises, by Judge Telford in Manchester County Court on February 7, 1994.

Their Lordships expressed the view that the procedure of levying distress for rent had outlived its usefulness as a just remedy and that, in accordance with the modern law of bankruptcy and the Commission's recommendation in

1991 (HC 128), it should be abolished.

Mr James Bowyer for the plaintiffs, Mr Anthony Ellery, QC, for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said that the plaintiffs, large-scale hirers of commercial vehicles, had hired out the vehicle, an unlicensed Mercedes T5 van, to a company in 1991. That company later ran into financial difficulties owing to the defendants' landlords, rent. In 1992 the defendants distrained for the arrears, a walking possession agreement being entered into between the parties. The plaintiffs claimed that the van was not theirs but that it had been hired to them.

The crucial issue was whether the company had been the "reputed owners" of the van for the purposes of section 4(1) of the 1968 Act. If it had been the levying of distress was, as the judge held, lawful. If not the plaintiffs were entitled to damages.

The plaintiffs' case was that to establish that goods in the possession of the company were in its reputed ownership, the burden was on the defendants to establish that a reasonable person with knowledge of the general course of business and having made all reasonable inquiries would infer that the goods were, not may or may not, be owned by the company.

Whether, it was said, such an inference could be drawn, all relevant circumstances, including the prevalence of hiring should be taken into account. Mr Bowyer pointed out the prevalence as an ordinary incident of commercial life of hiring and to the evidence that 8 per cent of vehicles in that particular class were on hire. It was evident, he said, that the "must" test had not been met.

Historically the entitlement of a landlord to distraint for rent was a very old, well established right going back before the Distress for Rent Act 1689. The doctrine of reputed ownership dated back to a statute of King James I.

The remarkable feature of that branch of the law was that other persons' property could be distrainted and sold without their knowledge.

Reputed ownership had been considered in several cases, most of which related to bankruptcy, the most recent and most important being *In re Fox* [1948] Ch 407, a case unfortunately not cited to the judge.

Mr Bowyer's submissions were correct. For case was authority for the proposition that the primary question was whether in the circumstances the possession of the van supported the inference that the company was the reputed owner.

The court could not fail to take

judicial notice of the huge expansion of hiring and hire purchase, especially of motor vehicles, so that it had become a major feature of economic and social life far more so than 60 years ago.

Fury case was also authority for the need for inquiries to be made in appropriate cases. Here a simple telephone call by the bailiffs to the DVLC would have established the ownership of the van. Equally the register of vehicles held on hire purchase and kept by Hire Purchase Information Ltd was accessible.

The plaintiffs succeeded at the first hurdle and there was thus no need to examine other aspects of the case.

However, the case could not be left without a fervent hope being expressed that Parliament would adopt the Law Commission's recommendation to abolish the procedure of distress for rent, thus bringing the law of landlord and tenant in that respect into line with the modern law of bankruptcy.

SIR RALPH GIBSON, concurring, said that the remedy of distress on the terms set out in the current legislation, appeared to have outlived its usefulness as a just remedy.

Lord Justice Nourse agreed. Solicitors: Dunderdale Wigzell, Manchester; Mazon, Bolton.

Brookes v Harris and Another

Before Mr Justice Ferris

(Judgment March 17)

Since the legally aided defendant had recovered a collection of musical records, tapes and discs, as being the "tools of his trade" as a presenter of musical programmes on radio and television, which had been wrongly seized by the sheriff for the plaintiff's benefit, under a writ of fieri facias, the plaintiff was to pay defendant's costs, amounting to over £10,000, even though the defendant owed the plaintiff at least £135,000 in respect of an unsatisfied judgment debt.

Mr Justice Ferris so held in the Chancery Division on an appeal by the defendants, Mr Robert Brinkley Harris and Mrs Tracie Belinda Myerscough-Harris, from a deputy master who had directed that the plaintiff, Mr Trevor Neil Brookes, should be able to set off the costs against the judgment debt.

Pursuant to the order for Mr Brookes, Mr Michael Gadd for Mr and Mrs Harris.

MR JUSTICE FERRIS said that when in 1990 Mr and Mrs Harris purchased a leasehold flat in Hampstead, they borrowed from a building society on a first mortgage of £130,000 from Mr Brookes on a second legal charge on the flat. They fell into arrears on both.

In October 1993 Mr Brookes obtained an order for possession and for repayment of the £130,000 with interest amounting to £13,390.22. But the building society obtained possession of the flat and sold it and the proceeds of sale were insufficient or barely sufficient to pay off the building society's mortgage.

Mr Brookes caused a writ of fieri facias to be issued and on November 24, 1993 the sheriff entered into possession of a collection of records, tapes and compact discs, which Mr Harris estimated to be worth between £10,000 and £20,000.

On the same day Mr Harris, who was a presenter of musical programmes on radio and television, issued a summons seeking an order that the sheriff withdraw on the ground that the collection constituted tools of his trade, and therefore exempt from seizure.

In August 1994 Master Gowers ruled in his favour but the terms of a formal order and the question of costs were left for consideration at a later date. On the appointed day, October 31, 1994, Master Gowers was not available, but Deputy Master Winder dealt with the matter. He ruled that Mr Brookes should pay the costs of Mr Harris's successful challenge to the execution. That ruling was not disputed but Mr Brookes lost the collection, which would have to be sold to pay for legal aid received. On November 1, Deputy Master Winder allowed a set-off. Mr Harris appealed.

When allowing a set-off the deputy master had indicated that he doubted whether, for the purposes of section 10(6) of the Legal Aid Act 1985, the record collection was properly to be regarded as "property recovered", and he impliedly relied upon section 10(8), which provided that the charge created by subsection (6) "on any damages and costs" should not prevent a court allowing them to be set off against "other damages or costs" in any case where a legal representative's lien for costs would not prevent it.

He also thought it most unlikely that the Legal Aid Board would exercise its charge in a way which would deprive Mr Harris of the ability to use the collection to earn his living. His Lordship did not accept a submission, on Mr Harris's behalf, that subsection (8) only avoided the preventive effect of the statutory charge where the set-off was to be against "other damages or costs", and not where it was to be against a judgment debt. The charge was not confined to damages and costs, but extended to any property recovered or preserved for a legally aided party. On that view section 10(8) enabled the court to allow a set-off.

After referring to *Lockley v National Blood Transfusion Service* [1992] 1 WLR 492, 495; *Reid v Capper* [1991] 2 KB 147; *Edwards v Hope* [1988] 14 QBD 823 and *In re Dehlor* (No 21 of 1993) (No 21 of 1993) Ch 612 his Lordship concluded that the court's jurisdiction to allow a set-off was clearly discretionary.

While there was obvious force in the proposition that it would be wrong to require Mr Brookes to pay a substantial sum for the benefit of Mr Harris, at a time when Mr Harris owed him a six-figure sum which there was little hope of Mr Brookes recovering, the special feature of the case was

the existence of the indefeasible charge in favour of the Legal Aid Board, which the board had no discretion not to enforce, giving rise to the equally apparent injustice to Mr Harris if a set-off were to be allowed. Mr Harris's collection would have been saved for him only for him to lose it again to the board.

The board would recover its costs in any event; the only persons to suffer were Mr Harris if a set-off were not allowed or Mr Brookes if it were not. After balancing all relevant considerations, his Lordship felt that the balance tipped in favour of Mr Harris: the reason why the collection had become subject to the statutory charge was because Mr Brookes had sought to levy what was held to be an illegal execution. The appeal would therefore be allowed.

It seemed to his Lordship that the existence of the charge over assets such as the record collection might be unintended: section 10(6) appeared to be the only respect in which a person's trade or profession were not to be left out of account.

It might be that until tools of trade were excluded from property liable to seizure, by an amendment in 1991, no exception was called for, but the fact that the Civil Legal Aid (General) Regulations (SI 1989 No 540) as amended by the Civil Legal Aid (General) (Amendment) (No 2) Regulations (SI 1991 No 2369) might wish to consider whether an addition ought now to be made to the list of exemptions from the statutory charge in regulation 94.

Mr Brookes would be given leave to appeal.

Solicitors: Russell, Cole & Cole, Oxford.

Taxing gains of non-resident trustees

de Rothschild v Lawrence

(Inspector of Taxes)

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Fargher and Lord Justice Henry

(Judgment April 5)

Gains realised in 1988-89 by the non-resident trustees of a settlement under which the United Kingdom resident settlor enjoyed a life interest were to be treated as trust gains accruing to the settlor and chargeable to tax under section 80 of the Finance Act 1981. In making the computation required by section 80(2) the deeming provision in paragraph 10 of Schedule 10 to the Finance Act 1988 were to be ignored.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing an appeal by the taxpayer, Mr David de Rothschild, from the judgment of Mr Justice Vaisey (The Times, December 7, 1993; [1994] STC 37) that had upheld a determination by special commissioners of an assessment to capital gains tax in an amount of £173,092.

Section 80, capital gains of non-resident trustees, provided: "(1) There shall be computed in respect of every year of assessment... the amount on which the trustees

would have been chargeable to tax under section 40(1) of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 if they had been resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom... and that amount... is referred to as the trust gains for the year."

"(2) ... the trust gains for a year of assessment shall be treated as chargeable gains accruing in that year to beneficiaries of the settlement who receive capital payments from the trustees in that year..."

Schedule 10 to the Finance Act 1988 concerned the taxation of gains arising from settled property in which the settlor has an interest and provided by paragraph 1(2) that where chargeable gain accrues to trustees they shall not be chargeable to tax in respect of the gain in force as respects resident trustees during 1988-89 had to be applied.

Paragraph 4 of Schedule 10 provides: "Paragraph 1 above does not apply unless the settlor is, and trustees are... resident in the United Kingdom during the year."

Mr Andrew Park, QC and Mr Patrick Collinson, QC, for the taxpayer, Mr Christopher McCull, QC and Mr Laurence Henderson for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the case was about capital gains tax on settled property, the taxpayer claiming that the consequences of paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 10 to the Finance Act 1988 having the far-reaching effect of reducing to nil a charge under section 80 of the 1981 Act.

Mr Park, starting with section 80(2) submitted that the trust gains for 1988-89 were the amount on which the trustees would have been chargeable to the tax if they had been resident in the United Kingdom in that year.

That made it necessary, he said, to ask on what amount the trustees would have been chargeable had they been resident in the United Kingdom, for which purpose the law in force as respects resident trustees during 1988-89 had to be applied.

He said that that question could only be answered by reference to Schedule 10 to the 1988 Act, being the law which affected resident trustees during that year.

Since paragraph 1(2) provided that the consequences of section 80(2) were to be applied as if the settlor was also a beneficiary the trustees would not be chargeable to tax in respect of the gains concerned.

trust gains for the purposes of section 80(2) were nil and the taxpayer had to be assessed accordingly.

Paragraph 1(2) of section 80(2) was a deeming provision. It required non-resident trustees to be treated as if they had been resident. The purpose for which the fiction was to be resorted to was clear. It was in order to compute the amount of the charge imposed on the beneficiaries of a non-resident settlement by subsection (2) and the following subsections of section 80.

The taxpayer would introduce into the computation a provision transferring a charge from the trustees to the settlor of a resident settlement. In making the computation required by section 80(2) paragraph 1(2) had to be ignored.

Not only would that lead to an absurd result; it would apply to one kind of settlement a provision relating to another and quite different kind of settlement. The introduction was therefore inappropriate. In making the computation required by section 80(2) paragraph 1(2) had to be ignored.

Lord Justice Fargher and Lord Justice Henry agreed. Solicitors: Freshfields, Solicitors of Inland Revenue.

Wandsworth London Borough Council v Atwell and Another

Before Lord Justice Glidewell and Lord Justice Waite

(Judgment April 7)

Section 196(3) of the Law of Property Act 1925, which permitted service of certain notices by leaving them at the last-known place of abode of the person to be served, did not apply to service on a periodic tenant of a notice to quit where the tenancy agreement made no express provision for service of notice to quit, since the agreement did not require such a notice to be served within the contemplation of section 196(3).

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing appeals by the defendants, Mr Desmond Atwell and Mr Joseph Donald, from the order of Judge Hornden made at Central London County Court on August 2, 1994, granting the plaintiffs, Wandsworth London Borough Council, possession of property owned by the council.

Section 196 of the 1925 Act provides: "(1) Any notice required or authorised to be served or given by this Act shall be in writing... (2) Any notice required or authorised by this Act to be served shall be served if it is left at the last-known place of abode or business in the United Kingdom of the... person to be served... (3) The provisions of this section shall extend to notices required to be served by any instrument affecting property executed or coming into operation after the commencement of this Act unless a contrary intention appears."

Mr Stephen Fletcher for the first defendants, Mr David Daly for the second defendant and Mr Joseph Donald, from the order of Judge Hornden made at Central London County Court on August 2, 1994, granting the plaintiffs, Wandsworth London Borough Council, possession of property owned by the council.

THE COURT OF APPEAL (Lord Justice Glidewell and Lord Justice Waite) said that the issue could be narrowed to the question: was the service of the notice to quit valid service in accordance with section 196(3) of the 1925 Act?

The answer was that it was not. The notice was not served in accordance with section 196(3) of the 1925 Act.

THE COURT OF APPEAL (Lord Justice Glidewell and Lord Justice Waite) said that the issue could be narrowed to the question: was the service of the notice to quit valid service in accordance with section 196(3) of the 1925 Act?

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sections in that it referred to "notices required to be served by any instrument affecting property" but not to notices "authorised" so to be served.

By section 205(1), the definition section, "instrument" did not include a statute. It followed that an argument that notice to quit was required by the Protection from Eviction Act 1977 was to no avail.

On the other hand, in his Lordship's judgment the "acceptance of offer" document signed by Mr Donald had been or had contained the essential terms of Mr Donald's tenancy agreement, and was an "instrument" for the purposes of section 196(3).

The question could therefore be narrowed still further: was the notice "quit" required to be served by the tenancy agreement? Neither the researches of counsel nor of the court had revealed any authoritative decision in answer to that question, which seemed surprising in relation to a provision which had been in force for nearly 70 years, and a situation which must have arisen with some frequency.

In his Lordship's judgment, a tenancy agreement which made no express provision for the service of a notice to quit to determine the tenancy did not "require" such a notice to be served. Thus in that situation section 196(3) did not apply.

For those reasons, his Lordship would allow the appeal and set aside the order for possession granted to the council against both defendants.

The moral for landlords was clear. If they wished to render valid and effective service of a notice to quit by leaving it at the premises of the tenant, they must, without proving that it came to the attention of the tenant, be obliged to (i) make express provision for such a method of service in the tenancy agreement; and (ii) prove the terms of the agreement in any action for possession following service of such a notice.

Lord Justice Waite delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Ceres & Co, Bristol; Mr Martin Walker, Wandsworth.

Power to conceal witness's identity

Regina v Southampton Industrial Tribunal

Ex parte INS News Group Ltd and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Fargher and Lord Justice Henry

(Judgment April 7)

An industrial tribunal should not use its general discretionary powers to avoid formally under regulation 9(1) of the Industrial Tribunal (Constitution and Rules of Procedure) Regulations (SI 1993 No 2687) for the purpose of excluding the public and press from a hearing in a case where there were allegations of sexual misconduct, but rather it should make unambiguous orders against the identification of people involved under regulation 14 of the 1993 Regulations which was made specifically for that purpose.

Mr Justice Nourse so held in the Queen's Bench Division on February 13, 1994, granting the application of INS News Group

against the execution of an order for possession obtained by the bank relating to a house in Birmingham.

THE PRESIDENT said it was a sorry tale. The bank had claimed to be owed £33,000. The document was undated with a blank for the name of the principal debtor and there were other deficiencies.

Mr Kaur who did not speak or read English had signed with a cross against Kaur's name. The document was not a sufficient memorandum of a guarantee.

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Youth under training not dependent child

Regina v Kensington and Royal Borough Council

Ex parte Amarillo

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Evans

(Judgment April 7)

For the purpose of assessment by a local authority of a child who was a boy aged 16 on a youth training scheme was not a dependent child within the meaning of section 59(1)(b) of the Housing Act 1985.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Mr Joseph Amarillo from a decision by Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division (The Times July 4, 1993; [1994] 26 HLR 721) rejecting an application for judicial review of a decision by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea that he was not in priority need for accommodation.

Mr James Bowen for Mr Amarillo, Miss Kate Asanoltis for the council.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that Part III of the 1985 Act was concerned with housing the homeless. Section 59(1) listed those having priority need for accommodation, by paragraph (b) including "a person with whom dependent children reside or might reasonably be expected to reside". The Act did not define "dependent" child.

In October 1993 the applicant applied for accommodation for himself and his son aged 16 who six days earlier had started a two-year youth training scheme. In November the council notified the

applicant that it had found him to be homeless but not in priority need.

The purpose of section 59(1)(b) was to identify those having a priority need for accommodation: it was to be construed narrowly. Children under 16 were certainly dependent but the position might be different once they attained that age.

In paragraph 6.3 of *Homelessness: Code of Guidance for Local Authorities* 3rd edition (1991), issued under section 71 of the 1985 Act, local authorities were advised to "include all children under 16, and all children aged 16 to 18 who are in, or about to begin, full-time education or training... and who live at home".

The judge, having referred to a document on youth training from the Central London Training and Enterprise Council, and noting the weekly allowance of £29.50, rising to £35, that was received by trainees, concluded that "a 16 or 17-year-old on a youth training scheme is not within the meaning of the words 'full-time education or training'; those words, in my view, being entirely in accord with the legislative provision in section 59(1)(b)".

The judge was right. It might be that a 16-year-old who was not financially independent was within that paragraph. But once he went into full-time employment he could not be.

Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Evans gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Daniel & Harris, Kilburn; Mr Alan Phillips, Kensington.

Antwerp United Diamonds BVBA and Another v Air Europe (a Firm)

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Fargher and Lord Justice Henry

(Judgment April 7)

The owners of a consignment of diamonds were entitled to recover in excess of the sum specified in a special declaration of interest they had made in accordance with article 22(2) of the Warsaw Convention, as amended by the Hague Protocol of 1955, and which had been given the force of law in England under the Carriage by Air Act 1961, when the limits of liability specified by article 22(2a) had been found not to apply by reason

of proof of conduct on the part of the carrier of the sort described in article 25 of the Convention.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Fargher and Lord Justice Henry) said that it was important to stress that in all run-of-the-mill cases the declared limit would apply. It was only where the consignor was able to prove the very strict criteria laid down in article 25 that the limit would be lifted. In such cases of extreme misconduct, either on the part of the carrier or of those servants and agents for whom he was legally responsible, it did not seem to be unjust that the limit should be lifted.

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In the first extract from his provocative book, Peter Brimelow argues that America's lax immigration policy is threatening disaster

THE PUBLICATION of Peter Brimelow's book *Alien Nation: Common Sense About America's Immigration Disaster* is causing a stir in America that is being compared to last year's row over *The Bell Curve*. Richard Herrnstein and Charles Murray's study of intelligence and race, *Brimelow*, himself an English immigrant and a former *Times* columnist, is being attacked for his argument that the renewed mass immigration triggered by the 1965 Immigration Act does not benefit Americans and is in fact overwhelmingly unpopular. Last week *The New York Times* said it was "the benchmark case against immigration as it is currently taking place".

There is a sense in which current immigration policy is Adolf Hitler's posthumous revenge on America. The US political elite emerged from the war passionately concerned to cleanse itself from all taints of racism or xenophobia. Eventually, it enacted the epochal Immigration Act (technically the Immigration and Nationality Act Amendment) of 1965. And this, quite accidentally, triggered a renewed mass immigration, so huge and so systematically different from anything that had gone before as to transform — and ultimately, perhaps, even to destroy — the one unquestioned victor of the Second World War: the Ameri-

can nation, as it had evolved by the middle of the 20th century.

"Still," *Time* magazine wrote in its Fall 1993 Special Issue on Multiculturalism, "for the first time in its history, the US has an immigration policy that, for better or worse, is truly democratic."

As an immigrant, albeit one who came to America rather earlier than yesterday and is now an American citizen, I find myself asking with fascination: what can this possibly mean? American immigration policy has always been democratic, of course, in the sense that it has been made through democratic procedures. Right now, as a matter of fact, it's unusually undemocratic, in that Americans have told pollsters long and loudly that they don't want any more immigration; but the politicians ignore them.

"Immigrants built America!" Americans are incessantly told. Again, as an immigrant, I don't agree. There is surprising evidence that immigration is, and probably always has been, much less important to American economic growth than is conventionally assumed. America took off, economically and indeed morally, in the colonial era. That momentum continues, albeit not increasingly obscured.

But note that I am not saying that immigration, particularly selected immigration, is always without value — just that it is at most a

luxury rather than a necessity. For example, I am arguably displacing an American-born worker as a senior editor at *Forbes* magazine. I naturally like to think that my employers would miss my unique contribution. However, I am fairly sure that they would survive.

As a financial journalist, I am professionally inclined to find the economic argument about immigration compelling. But I know from experience that it is not. People habitually justify their immigration preferences in economic terms, but really they are motivated by a wide range of ethnic, moral and even psychological agendas. These agendas are not necessarily illegitimate (although most Americans would find some rather startling if they realised what they were). The point, however, is that they should be discussed.

Taboos are not just a matter of cowardice and mendacity. They also reflect a sincere human reluctance to give offence (which is why

they tend to become rampant in diverse societies). Although it may sometimes appear otherwise, I am not abnormally anxious to give offence.

Race and ethnicity are destiny in American politics. The racial and ethnic balance of America is being radically altered through public policy. This can only have the most profound effects. Is this what Americans want?

And the taboo that prevents this simple reality from being debated also prevents discussion of the most obvious irrationalities in current immigration policy — such as its perverse *de facto* discrimination against skilled immigrants; and against those countries that, by accident, were not first through the door after 1965.

America's immigration system is broke and needs fixing. The only issue is: how much? And what do Americans want? I don't believe, after long and careful inspection, that they want anything

very terrible for their fellow human beings. They seem to me as if they would accept any immigrant, of any complexion including paid intentions. But there are limits. Enough, as Americans invariably say in private conversation, is enough.

This is not an unreasonable position. Unfortunately, and greatly to the discredit of the American political elite, there is no longer a respectable language in which to express it.

Nevertheless, when you debate immigration with its American enthusiasts, you reach the pained assertion "But America's different!" in just two or three exchanges. This is an alarming indication of how desperately thin the substantive arguments for this immense historic gamble turn out to be, when given even the most casual prod. You can hardly argue with this

sort of faith. But you can doubt it. A generation ago, anti-Vietnam War demonstrators wittily retorted to the prospect of the military draft: "Not with my life you don't!" Now, we might reasonably say to advocates of this new adventure: "Not with my child's future you don't!"

I mean this literally. There is confusion nowadays about what it means to be a "nation" and a "nation-state" but, essentially, a nation is a sort of extended family. It links individual and group, parent and child, past and future, in ways that reach beyond the rational to the most profound and elemental in the human experience.

In 1990, for instance, almost one child in every 20 enrolled in American public schools either could not speak English or spoke it so poorly as to need language-assistance programmes. This number is increasing with striking speed: only six years earlier, it had been one child in 31. Current law is generally interpreted as requiring schools to educate such children in their native language. To do so, according to one California estimate, requires spending some 65 per cent more per child than on an English-speaking child.

Of native-born Americans 2.3 per cent now do not speak English "very well" and 1.2 per cent are "linguistically isolated" — living in households where no one aged 14 or over speaks only English or

speaks English "very well". Astonishingly, nearly a third of the immigrants who entered the country between 1980 and 1990 and had become US citizens were "linguistically isolated" — although until 1990, English proficiency was usually a condition of naturalisation.

The mass immigration so thoughtlessly triggered in 1965 risks making America an alien nation — not merely in the sense that the numbers of aliens in the nation are rising to levels last seen in the 19th century; not merely in the sense that America will become a freak among the world's nations because of the unprecedented demographic mutation it is inflicting on itself; not merely in the sense that Americans themselves will become alien to each other, requiring an increasingly strained Government to arbitrate between them; but, ultimately, in the sense that Americans will no longer share in common what Abraham Lincoln called in his First Inaugural Address "the mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle field and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land."

And that when the time comes to strike those chords, no sweet sound will result.

The second extract from Peter Brimelow's book will appear on Monday.

British unity in diversity

Mary Ann Sieghart detects a change in national attitudes

What is Britishness? Is it more than the sum of its parts — or less? Many Scots and not a few Welsh believe that Britishness is no more than a disguised version of Englishness. Exploring the questions of national identity for the BBC, I have just visited three towns with the same name — one each in Scotland, Wales and England — to try to discover whether there is an overarching sense of identity that it still makes sense to call British.

Nobody in Newport, Shropshire, had a problem with Britishness. In Newport, Gwent, some of the Welsh felt British, though others preferred to call themselves European. But it was in Newport-on-Tay, near Dundee, that we found the greatest reluctance to sign up to a common identity of Britishness.

Here is Billy Kay, a local writer: "The British identity that I'm supposed to feel part of I see as being first of all an imperial identity through the Empire and then an identity which has been forced by the idea of people coming together to fight two world wars. I don't think that's a healthy identity to carry into the 21st century."

This is a common complaint — that Britishness is something from the past that has little relevance today. When the Act of Union was signed in 1707, people had to be persuaded to attach an extra loyalty to their long-standing allegiance to region or nation.

Successive governments used the common religion of Protestantism as a propaganda weapon to encourage the English, Scottish and Welsh to unite around a common flag — and against Catholic enemies.

The Empire — which was always the British, not the English Empire — was also a unifying force. It drew heavily on the expertise of the Scots and Welsh as doctors, readers, explorers and administrators.

Then there was the monarchy. Queen Victoria perhaps perfected the art of being monarch to all of Britain and the Empire. Meanwhile, successive wars have brought Britons together in defence of

the Empire and the Union. It was the Battle of Britain, not the Battle of England, that took place over the Channel and southern counties.

But history is history: the Empire has gone, the Church no longer binds us, the Armed Forces are shrinking and the monarchy is troubled. Some people feel that the glue of nationhood has dried up. Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish nationalists, no longer wants to be attached to what he sees as a Britain in decline. He looks to Europe as Scotland's new stage.

So do a surprising number in Newport, Gwent. Alan Richards, a sales director, has found that doing business with Europe has changed his outlook. "I see our future very much as being linked to Europe as a whole; that includes England. I see England merely as part of Europe."

But he is still unusual: probably a majority of the Welsh still think of themselves as British too. We are all capable of overlapping loyalties and identities — Britishness need not detract from Welshness. And as a nation we have a surprising amount in common. We are good at winning wars together. We are all good explorers, travellers, traders, philanthropists and inventors. We share a sense of fair play, and probity in public life. We respect the law.

These British values and ways of thinking that we all share have been somewhat eclipsed by Scottish and Welsh struggles for national identity. So frustrated are they by English political domination that they have allowed themselves to forget how much the nations of Britain still have in common.

Some people see the devolution of power to Scotland and Wales as a threat to the Union. But it could be that, by venturing their difference through politics, the Scots and Welsh would feel more comfortable as part of the joint enterprise called Great Britain.

Mary Ann Sieghart appears on *The Big Picture*: The Break-Up of Britain: BBC2 tomorrow, 7pm.

Who's afraid of terrorism?

The hysterical reaction to this week's outrage is dangerous. Governments must not be intimidated

After the aftermath comes the after-aftermath. President Clinton's damning of the Oklahoma car bombers had the fax machines in *The Times* letters department clattering within minutes. Now he knows what a terrorist is really like. Now let him shake hands with Gerry Adams. Now America can feel the sting of a tourism boycott. How would Mr Clinton feel about us welcoming the Oklahoma bombers to Buckingham Palace?

There is no end to the mishmash of hysteria and hypocrisy, of humbug and grief pornography that the modern terrorist can unleash. Like Conrad's anarchist, "He walks frail, insignificant, shabby, miserable — and terrible in the simplicity of his idea, calling madness and despair to the regeneration of the world". Yet we all start dancing to his tune, even I in writing this column. For the terror is not in the act. It is in the response. Three hundred other innocents were mindlessly slaughtered last week across the globe. Three hundred died on the streets and in homes of America, victims of that country's love of guns. Their killers incur no presidential fire.

The Oklahoma killers merely denoted a bomb and people died. To elevate this massacre above the mass of slaughters, to sanctify it as terrorism, they needed the help of the press and public. We duly obliged. Now we cry, "Nowhere in America is safe!" We drool over the cuttings, rerun old footage, explain how bombs are made, pump oxygen into every crackpot that craves publicity. All the vulnerabilities of any American, or British, building, street, park or person are held up to horrified gaze. The media become an accomplice to the outrage, not in reporting it but in extrapolating a single act and magnifying it to million times. A mass murder is generalised and distised with politics. The world is invited to be terrified. The terrorist's work is then — but only then — complete.

Nobody who has walked through the carnage of a London or a Belfast IRA car bomb can doubt the destructive force of these weapons. (Mr Clinton should indeed know how



Oklahoma aftermath: the media become an accomplice to the outrage, magnifying not reporting it

sickened Britons were when he welcomed the men who wield them to his home). But the force was nothing compared to the impact those bombs had on British life. That was the IRA's real achievement. Public buildings were turned into fortresses. Ministers were driven behind bullet-proof glass. Machineguns and flak-jackets sprouted at airports and conference centres. Shopping bags were searched. Cars were scrutinised. That symbol of democracy, the Downing Street right-of-way, was closed and barred.

These measures did not make anyone much safer. They merely demanded greater ingenuity of the bomber. He could not get near the Prime Minister, so he must blow up an entire hotel. He could not drive into Downing Street, so he must lob his missile over the gates. The US and India have the most closely protected leaders in the world. Two have been shot in both countries in the recent past. In Britain we shall never know how many lives or limbs were saved by the biggest peacetime security

Simon Jenkins

investment ever. We only know of the regularity with which the IRA penetrated that security.

Defensive measures cannot stop bombings or shootings. The suicide bomber, the telescopic assassin, the demented killer, the sarin poisoner will have his way occasionally. Security is mere psychological first aid, to counter the psychological terror of the outrage. The bomber by definition wishes to destabilise the State. The State responds by reassuring its citizens that it is back in control. It does so with guards and guns and searches and summary arrests, because those are the natural "default modes" of those in authority. If such shows of authority inflame terror, undermine civil rights or

boost the esteem of the killers, too bad. In the vicious circle of terror and repression, repression will never be found wanting.

I believe there is an alternative course. It derives from the pacifist tradition, with which I have a strictly selective sympathy. This course relies not in an act but in an act-plus-a-response. The task is not to stop the act, which is impossible, but to condition the response. The killers must be pursued assiduously, but their actions must not be given inflated significance. They are ghastly accidents, as they must seem to their victims. Like earthquakes, fires or motorway pile-ups, they leave their human debris. But they are signs of deranged minds, not a deranged society.

In other words, we refuse to be terrified. We commiserate with the victims, assert the primacy of the judicial process and go about our business. I remember being shocked when Americans cancelled their European holidays in response to IRA bombings, and even to their own bombing of Tripoli in 1986. They

were scared by facile media images. They stopped thinking and abandoned any sensible risk assessment. (The most dangerous place for an American tourist is in America.) They gave terrorism its biggest boost. I hope Britons respond to the Oklahoma massacre by making Oklahoma a tourist destination this year.

Every incident such as Oklahoma City is pounced on by the bogboblins of the security industry. They offer to sell body armour and bomb-proof cars. They offer reinforced glass and radar scanners. They offer to whisk very important people from one "close protection" scene to another. They can turn every office into an Alcatraz and entomb every public official in a windowless bunker. You can never be too safe, they say. You can never say no to security. Woe betide the official who does. This argument converted even a reluctant Margaret Thatcher to the obnoxious Downing Street barrier in 1989.

It so happens that next month a report is being published on government buildings in and around Whitehall. It will show how much of the area has been closed to the public in the past two decades to protect officials and ministers from the IRA. Downing Street has been shut. Richmond Terrace has been shut. Theatreland parking in the area has been banned. In a glaring inconsistency, Horse Guards Parade has been left open for parking, despite being next to both Downing Street and the Northern Ireland Office. Vehicles enter unsuspected every day. But since it is used by senior officials, demands that the Parade be restored as open space, whether for aesthetic or security reasons, have been resisted.

The report will propose the removal of the Downing Street barrier and the restoration of the right-of-way past No 10. It also wants to see free access to the courtyards of the Treasury, Foreign Office and Old Admiralty buildings and the landscaping of the glorious spaces facing St James's Park. Yet when news of the report leaked on Thursday, the response was that it could hardly have come at a worse time. Government would be shaking with fear after the Oklahoma bomb. There was little chance of cutting back on security. Indeed security firms would doubtless be stepping up their sales.

The Whitehall report could not be better timed. Tearing down the barriers and taking out the anti-suicide bomber ramp would be a low-risk act of faith in peace in Northern Ireland. It would be a gesture of more open government. When crazed murderers strike in Oklahoma, a British government does not react by being scared. It makes an emphatic gesture of fearlessness. It asserts normality.

Spotted Dickie

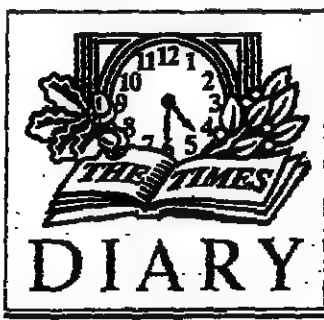
WITH THE arrival of the cricket season, Dickie Bird will be hoping for a bit of a rest. The dozen of Test umpires did not have the most relaxing of pre-season breaks. His recent holiday in the sun to recharge his batteries after the winter Tests in India and Pakistan was a

trial. The mistake was to choose Barbados, where cricket is more of a religion than a national pastime.

In shops he was greeted with excited handshakes and slaps on the back. In restaurants he was fawned by waiters and managers. A stroll on the beach was like a royal progress.

The mild-mannered Yorkshireman eventually sought refuge from the crowds in a packed Methodist church, where he hoped to sit in quiet contemplation. "I went in and sat at the back and felt sure no one had recognised me," he says. Far from it. He was spotted by the minister conducting the service. "We have a great man in the church today, ladies and gentlemen," the reverend gentleman announced to his assembled throng. "Mr Dickie Bird is sitting at the back." The congregation burst into spontaneous applause.

Remove got the better of a thief who recently stole a clump of bamboo from Lord Harewood's



Yorkshire estate. Christopher Ussher, resident agent, received an anonymous letter from the culprit. "I cut some sticks of bamboo from your estate near the big house. I hope this £5 is enough."

Old timer

NEWS FROM the borders: Radio 4's *Gardeners' Question Time* believes it has discovered Britain's oldest aspistras. The discovery follows talk some weeks ago on the programme of a 50-year-old version of the Victorian pot-plant with enormous leaves.

Tomorrow *Gardeners' Question Time* will report on an aspistras

which is claimed by its owner to be three times that age. The news came in a letter from a Northamptonshire listener. "I was very interested in the question regarding a young aspistras plant. I have a lovely variegated one and, at 85 years, am the fourth generation of being owner. At the moment it has 44 large leaves... it must be over 150 years old, and stands in my front porch: very hot in the summer and very very cold in winter."

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to one of the Queen's most loyal servants, who is recovering in hospital after a heart attack. Palace steward Tony Jarrard, 60, was taken ill last Tuesday at Buckingham Palace. The Queen has sent a personal "get well" message to Jarrard, who has worked at the Palace for 42 years.

Alas, Rosie

THE THESPIAN community in Swansea is mourning the passing of Rosie, the Grand Theatre's resident pig. The 18-stone porker was a huge hit with theatricals and audiences alike and will be sorely missed at rehearsals.

She belonged to one Caroline Williams, who provides lodgings to touring players. On her evening walks, Rosie became a regular at the stage door, where she would hog the limelight, shooting the breeze with friends.

"She got on particularly well with one of the Chippendales," says Williams. "She used to roll over and let him tickle her for hours. She was very docile and well behaved and loved to kiss the audience and players alike." Close friends attend-

ed her cremation last week. She never married.

Light comedy

AFTER HIS extraordinary outburst against theatre critics at the Olivier Awards, Tony Slattery's most recent explosion was directed at London pubgoers. The comic was spotted in a West End bar the other day. "There's Tony Slattery," observed one drinker. "More like Tony Fal-tary," replied his pal.

Hearing this, Slattery leapt across the room. "I really don't think that's at all funny," he spluttered. "I'm not that fat really and I have been on a diet and it's not easy." With that he slouched away.

Wedding date

AS THE Nolan committee yesterday completed its report suggesting more measures to scrutinise MPs' behaviour, Lord Nolan may have been distracted by rather purer thoughts. His daughter Anne is to marry her long-term beau and fellow estate agent, Simon York, in the autumn. They met five years ago at a New Year's Eve party.



Anne Nolan: on the move

Anne lives in London and Simon in Cambridge, but they will now no longer have to tear up and down the M1 for snatched moments. They have agreed to move to Cambridge, she says. They will wed on October 21, a week after they had originally planned. As the groom explains, his future mother-in-law intervened. "Lady Nolan pointed out that it was the weekend the garden opens to the public."

P.H.S.



Bird: no hiding place



LOVE AND LA PATRIE

French voters have a severe case of the seven-year itch

France's two-tier system for presidential elections allows its citizens to vote once with their heart, and a second time with their head. Or so it is often said: this year's campaign for the Elysée may prove to be an affair of the heart throughout.

Support for Édouard Balladur, who doggedly persists in claiming that France wants the sober truth, has halved in the course of the campaign. By last weekend, he was barely ahead of the extreme right-winger, Jean-Marie Le Pen. In sharp contrast, Jacques Chirac's extraordinary political comeback has been based on the intuition that France wants a new world laid at its feet. Of the nine suitors who will court the voters' favours tomorrow, only M Chirac can be certain that he will be fighting the second round which ends on May 7.

Even for M Chirac, the voters have been playing hard to get. Two-thirds of them grumble that the entire political class is corrupt. Tomorrow, more than a third are expected to vote for one of the six extreme-left, extreme-right, or other candidates who they know have no chance of victory. For many, protest will not end there; they could well stay at home on May 7 in unimpaired rejection of the choice before them.

France's seven-year itch is a cliché of political discourse. Each presidential contest brings with it jeremiads about the gulf between the governing élite and *la France profonde*. The 14 scandal-ridden years of François Mitterrand's highly interventionist presidency have given the charge more than usual force. So has the high cost in unemployment paid for France's determined clasp of the German mark. Strikes and street protests during the campaign have been one symptom; the volatile state of the electorate at this late stage of the race is another.

But in the nation de Gaulle famously dismissed as ungovernable — a description which most French people wear like a badge of pride — the "two nations" diagnosis, much touted by politicians for whom it is a useful shorthand, is deceptive. In the French character, egotistical individualism coexists with belief in social solidarity, a streak of anarchism with industrious daily habits and a solid sense of the family, the Jacobin with the Girondin. The national gene-pool has place for the Fronde and Richelieu, for Louis

XIV and Lafayette, for Napoleon Bonaparte, the risk-taker, and for Talleyrand, the ultimate political survivor.

The dyspepsia of the moment does not, therefore, mean that France has turned against the quasi-monarchical constitution of the Fifth Republic. On the contrary: two-thirds of voters say that what they want is a "real leader who would restore order and be in command". If they really believed M Chirac's promises of a lighter presidential hand on the reins of power, his support would falter.

What the French do want is a clean break with the past 14 years: with Socialist cronyism, and with the uneasy compromises of left-right cohabitation. To have to defend any aspect of the past is a handicap. M Balladur complains that after only two years as Prime Minister he is seen, unfairly, as yesterday's man. But he has not helped his case by insisting that France need do no more than hold the course he has set.

Lionel Jospin, the plodding Socialist candidate, is still more heavily dogged by "incumbency". He refused the red rose, symbol of the heady *fête sociale* which ushered in the Socialist years, when it was pressed on him by a supporter last week. But he cannot credibly disown an egalitarian legacy which in the view of most French people has left their country more than ever polarised between the unemployed and insecure, and the middle class beneficiaries of a modernising, open economy.

If "Europe" has barely figured in this campaign, it is not because — as M Balladur contends — "the Maastricht debate has evaporated". It is because the French see Europe neither as cause of their anxieties about survival in a world of open competition and rapid social change, nor as the cure. Their eyes are turned inward, on a polity discredited by scandal at municipal as well as national level, in business as in politics. Hence the success of M Chirac's astute game of turncoat against France's powerful bureaucratic machine, and his vote-winning policy to address *la fracture sociale*. His remedies may be as unaffordable as his opponents' charge. But he has succeeded in rekindling some of the spirit of Gaullism's early radicalism. Arithmetic has little place in affairs of the heart.

WONDER HORSE

Celtic Swing races against Bellerophon — and even Pegasus

The performance of Celtic Swing in today's Greenham Stakes at Newbury will be watched with awe and fascination by those who believe this elegant colt may be one of the greatest horses in history. Last year's juvenile champion set a course record at Ascot and is already favourite for the 2,000 Guineas and the Derby. Those who ride him say he is flawless. Those who watch — and bet — agree.

The quest for such a horse is what motivates those who are truly passionate about the sport of racing. Because so much effort is invested in horse-breeding, and training has become such an art, turf enthusiasts have long believed in the possibility of a perfect, unbeatable animal. In the century after the Restoration, about 100 stallions were imported to this country, at least one of whom, the Byerley Turk, had been taken from the Turks and ridden in battle. Since then, the evolution of the British thoroughbred has been at the heart of our nation's sporting life.

This quest is more than a specialist pursuit for wealthy owners, craft trainers and hopeful punters. It appeals to man's ancestral instinct to find a horse of magical ability and tame him. In Greek myth, the winged horse Pegasus was said to have sprung from the blood of the Gorgon Medusa when she was beheaded. Ridden by Perseus and later by Bellerophon, Pegasus

was a great ally to both before taking his place in the heavens as a constellation. There could be no more potent symbol of man's wish to tame the elusive beauty of nature, a wish that is never quite realised.

For centuries, this preoccupation has surfaced in legend and literature. Alexander the Great was said to be the only man who could mount his charger Bucephalus. In *The Squire's Tale*, Chaucer, the king of Sarra, is given "the brazen horse", a magical stallion who can carry his rider anywhere. The tradition survives, albeit in a more vulgar form, in the enduring popularity of Dick Turpin's Black Bess, of Anna Sewall's *Black Beauty* and of the Lone Ranger's mount, Silver. The belief in the ideal horse still permeates our culture.

Celtic Swing may not live up to the awesome expectations that have already been made of him. Some say his pedigree is less than immaculate. Other sceptics point to previous horses who have triumphed as juveniles but failed in later life. Tromos, who achieved an extraordinarily high rating in 1978, achieved nothing thereafter. More recently, the French horse Araz was not able to match his early performances with adult triumphs. Yet such failures have not diminished the hope that one day a truly perfect horse will tread the turf. Today, Celtic Swing will gallop in furious pursuit of that glory.

COKE SEC

Or make mine a clockwork orange juice

The names all sound as if they were dreamt up by Bob Dylan on a bad day, "stuck inside of Mobile" yet again with the Memphis blues. Blow deeply into your old harmonica, clear your throat, and read this aloud in a charcoal voice with Dylan's lengthened vowels: Appletise, Caledonian Clear, Raspberry Psychic Lemonade. And if you do that in a bar tomorrow, or in a public house, you are less likely to be ejected by the bouncer, staff than to be served with a New Age beverage for Adults by someone from behind the counter.

"New Age" and "Adult" are words for whose custody a little skirmish will be fought. For long the preserve of those in our society with an unsavoury style of dress, odour and cinematic habit, they have now been adopted as emblems for their new products by vigorous soft drink corporations in America and Britain. Aqua Libra, Purvey's, Jive, Monsoon and Chris Consciousness — the last belonging to Coca-Cola's new Fruition range — are just a fizzy splinter of examples.

Why would adults, new or fusty, enlightened or Neanderthal, choose to drink such beverages as these? And if the liquids are "texturally modified" — carbonated juice, complete with floating morsels of fruit and jelly — that question is even more poignant. The answer lies only partly in the insistent advertising employed by the makers of these drinks. "Obey your thirst," one tells us in

imperative mood, reinforcing Mark Twain's observations in *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* that "many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising".

Yet since these refreshments are neither naughtier nor nicer than our more traditional tipples, the real reasons for their increasing sales must lie elsewhere than in pretty jingles and pretty posters. They are not cheap either: Aqua Libra costs as much as some table wines.

Could it be that New Age Adult men and women have awakened fully at last to the safety rules of the New Age? The only greater taboos now in our society than drinking-and-driving are the sexual ones; but not only is it tedious to drink mineral water in a pub or wine bar, it is also far from stylish. The clockwork orange juice is clearly no better. Lemonade, for obvious reasons, is scorned by grown-ups: there is little point in drinking tonic water without an infusion of gin, and colas are, well, just colas. Been there, done that.

So bring on Arne and Orchid, Snapple and Kiri, Miro and Oasis, the stylised samaritanisms of the sober. And bring them in in bottles of inventive shape and size, in cans of lurid colour, in glasses with swizzle sticks and springs of coriander. If these confections help the man who cannot drink alcohol to have some fun anyway, then long may they fizz at us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Accusations of 'vulgarity' at the National Film Theatre

From Mr Alexander Walker

Sir, I was a British Film Institute governor when, a year or two ago following a critical National Audit Office report, the board very cautiously sanctioned the screening of more "commercial" programmes at the National Film Theatre. I regret this now. What had been intended to retrieve vanishing audiences has been allowed to infiltrate the programming to an unacceptable degree that is threatening the BFI's cultural remit.

Your report, "Buys accuse film theatre of mediocrity and vulgarity" (April 18), is well founded. The programmes now carry an overload of films that are concurrently playing in the West End or that come up with seasonal availability on the TV channels.

An unwarranted emphasis of interest is placed on "schlock" cinema, which has an admitted place in popular culture but not the preponderant glorification it regularly enjoys in seasons devoted to John Waters, Russ Meyer, gay and lesbian seasons or the ultra-violent Manga cartoons from Japan. This "schlock" is no longer balanced by scholarly and comprehensive seasons devoted to eras, individuals and institutions of exceptional and accepted importance in cinema history.

The NFT has recently lost several of its most erudite programmers through resignations prompted by the populist revisionism now entrenched there, and is paying for it.

Even more worrying are the recent tie-ups with commercial interests that have nothing to do with cinema. I do not refer to sponsorship, which is very welcome, but to a departure such as

the "Exclusive NFT Music Offer" in the May programme which, like a mail-order catalogue, now advertises the launch of "a new music club" offering members the opportunity to buy CDs of "some of music's greats" — whether or not such "greats" have any connection at all with the cinema. I believe this commercialisation is inappropriate to the cultural remit of the BFI charter, and may be contrary to the charitable status it at present enjoys. The BFI receives £17.1 million from the National Heritage Department.

It has no need to assert that cuts in its budget will jeopardise such estimable work as the preservation of old films — which was the BFI director's argument on suffering a £600,000 reduction in grant at the end of last year.

It desperately needs to re-order its priorities and acknowledge that the very generous current grant must be used for its cultural activities, even at a loss, and not for its commercial ambitions, even with profit in mind.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, ALEXANDER WALKER (Film Critic, *Evening Standard*), 1 Marlborough, 36-40 Maida Vale, W9, April 18.

From the Chairman of the British Film Institute

Sir, It is a matter for regret that your Arts Correspondent isolated the lesbian and gay screenings from the National Film Theatre's April programme as a whole, which ranges from 1930s Hollywood swashbuckling movies to Asian diasporan cinema.

Christian teaching on a proper order of obligations

From the Reverend T. Richard Harrison

Sir, Matthew Parris, facing the intellectual challenge of the Christian faith (column, April 17), cannot have it both ways. He comments that the Oxford science writer Richard Dawkins is correct when he says "Absolute is an inadequate substitute for thought", and then proceeds to list a variety of ethical situations requiring thought. If Christian teaching were to provide an order of priority to enable us to rank our obligations, he would presumably complain that no thought was required.

The truth of the matter is that everything is important in its time. If I meet somebody beaten up on the pavement whilst on my way to visit my mother, it does not mean that I regard the one in need of urgent attention as being more important than my mother.

Life is full of these moral choices every day. Since when did Jesus not care about family life? He was the one who turned to his mother whilst dying on the Cross and commended her to John, so that she should receive adequate comfort.

When He taught that we should place our relationship with Him on a higher level than our relationship with any of our family members, He was only underlining the truth we all must face, namely that sooner or later we shall have to say goodbye to each

member of the family.

But Jesus will be there when I am dying and because He is the Resurrection and the Life I shall need Him more than my own mother — bless her!

Yours faithfully, RICHARD HARRISON, 5 Havers Lane, Bishop's Cleeve, Hertfordshire, April 17.

From the Reverend Stephen Cones

Sir, It is true that the greatest challenge and dilemma of any deontological (principle or rule-based) ethical system is that the obligations it generates must be "ranked". And Matthew Parris is right that Jesus, being no legalist, had no intention of issuing instructions for every conceivable ethical dilemma.

But in suggesting that the Christian response to the ethical challenge is that we should "cast ourselves upon His guidance, which would come direct to our hearts", he shows his grip on the faith (at this point) to be tenuous.

Jesus came to stimulate our response to God His Father, and to each other — not to make it for us. He knew, and demonstrated in His own life, that it is the peculiar glory and the painful responsibility of human beings to make difficult choices. Hard moral cases are hard precisely because the responsibility to make lov-

ing, just choices is ours. To expect Jesus or the faith He founded to remove this responsibility is to misunderstand it badly.

Yours faithfully, JEREMY THOMAS, Chairman, British Film Institute, 21 Stephen Street, W1, April 18.

The developments in the NFT's programming policy followed extensive internal discussions and have been endorsed by the board of governors. They have also enjoyed considerable public success: there has been a substantial increase in NFT attendances and in membership and recent research by Gallup confirms that the members' "satisfaction levels" with the programming policy are "exceptionally high".

Yours faithfully, JEREMY THOMAS, Chairman, British Film Institute, 21 Stephen Street, W1, April 18.

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From Professor John Warwick Montgomery

Sir, Matthew Parris claims that the Christian religion "offers neither instruction nor guidance nor even hint, as to how we are to 'rank' our moral obligations".

Here are just three of many biblical prioritising: "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts v, 29). "If any provide not for . . . those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (1 Timothy v, 8). "Ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Matthew x, 31).

God before men; family duties before other duties; human rights before animal rights.

Yours faithfully, JOHN WARWICK MONTGOMERY, University of Luton, School of Law and Humanities, Park Square, Luton, Bedfordshire, April 18.

tee, which is examining the environmental impact of leisure activities will, it is hoped, take a critical look at existing public policy in this area.

Though so far reluctant to embrace its environmental responsibilities, the Department of National Heritage is in an ideal position to develop policies and institute reforms which set the more imaginative direction which you and others are seeking. The tourist boards pay little more than lip service to the environment. They should be placed under a statutory duty to respect and further environmental objectives — for the long-term health of the tourist industry as well as the urban and rural environment.

Yours faithfully, NEIL SINDEN (Assistant Secretary, Planning and Heritage), Council for the Protection of Rural England, Warwick House, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1, April 18.

One in the eye

From Mr Michael Noakes

Sir, Mr Brian Taylor (letter, April 20) is not alone. In my case the scene was a private view of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters. An elderly acquaintance made his way across the crowd to me: "I just wanted to say that I went round the exhibition with Enoch this morning, and he said that there was only one painter here whose work was really worth looking at. Such command of colour and tone, such panache in composition, such ability to reveal both the character and the personality of the sinner . . ."

I was beginning to look decidedly pleased. "Anyway," he continued, "it's always good to hear of complimentary things said about you, isn't it? Well done, Charles".

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL NOAKES, 146 Hamilton Terrace, NW8, April 20.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Animal exports and 'inhumanity'

From Mr David Gibbon

Sir, The judges' ruling in the live transport of animals case (report, April 13) follows a fine old tradition of English justice that would have been quite familiar to William Wilberforce. Here we have judges defending the commercial interests of the modern-day equivalents of the slave traders — the evil transporters of live animals, many of them with criminal records for animal cruelty, who, in the case of veal calves, export animals into a system of "husbandry" so manifestly inhumane that it is completely illegal in this country.

Yours faithfully, DAVID GIBBON, 145 Mayfield Road, Edinburgh 9.

From Sir David Mitchell, MP for Hampshire North West (Conservative)

Sir, Are animal "rights" protesters blind to the reality that their efforts are increasing the very suffering they seek to mitigate?

There are communities on the Continent who demand freshly slaughtered meat. There are slaughterhouses and butchers who supply these demands. The quantity required is not altered according to the source of the supply.

So the result of the efforts of the so-called animal rights demonstrators is to substitute for the short sea voyage from British ports a long sea voyage from the Republic of Ireland and (in greater measure) the cruelty of immensely long journeys from Spain, Italy, Greece et al. none of them noted for their tender loving care of animals.

In short the net achievement of our pious mobs is to increase the totality of animal suffering; not to mention destroying the legitimate livelihood of many UK farmers. Is the animal rights lobby really so lacking in logic that it cannot recognise that fact?

Yours faithfully, DAVID MITCHELL, House of Commons, April 19.

Over-fishing

From Dr G. C. L. Bertram

Sir, A temporary hake measurer was 1, for the Ministry, in stormy seas off St Kilda over the Christmas season of 1994. We young biologists from Cambridge all knew about over-fishing (letters, April 14, 20) and attempts to check it. Dead, miniature hake by the ton we counted and shovelled overboard, and in those days likewise Dublin Bay prawns (now best scampi) and squid (both then unsaleable).

Universal uncontrolled greed is the origin of over-fishing; that which has no immediate legal ownership is grabbed for profit until it becomes too expensive. That is why fish-farming, with clear private ownership, now can flourish.

European wars allow fish stocks to rebuild but then, twice in my own lifetime, greed again has conquered. For us today plankton-feeding managed mussels should be a main source of marine protein until one day sense may reign.

Yours faithfully, G. C. L. BERTRAM, Ricardo's, Grafton, Petworth, Sussex.

Rousing anthem

From Mr Ian H. Thain

Sir, Rather than advocate a rewriting of "the awful second verse" (Mr Brian North Lee's letter, April 15), I propose instead that we might sing it more frequently.

O Lord our God arise, Scatter our enemies And make them fall; Confound their policies, Frustrate their knavish tricks; On thee our hopes we fix: God save us all.

Criticism of this verse is nothing new: it was once suggested to Queen Victoria that something less fiercely patriotic might be more socially "acceptable". Her Majesty considered the suggestion and promptly dismissed it, judging that she saw no reason to alter anything as the words expressed exactly what she wanted.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, IAN THAIN, 30 Marlborough Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire, April 17.

In vino veritas

From Mr Michael D. Varcoe-Cocks

Sir, Mr John Ullman's problem about serving guests the vintage or non-vintage champagne first (letter, April 19) is not a "dilemma" (Mr Anthony Davies's letter, April 20), it is an embarrassment. If he cannot afford to serve vintage champagne only, he should simply provide non-vintage, or better still — if snob value can be laid aside — a good prosecco or sekt.

That Mr Ullman is considering serving vintage champagne only to those he judges might know the difference speaks for itself: if he has guests who could not tell the difference, he should serve a cheap liebfraumilch to everyone.

Yours faithfully, M. D. VARCOE-COCKS, 5 Brackenbury Road, W6, April 20.

OBITUARIES

R. E. S. WYATT

R. E. S. Wyatt, former England cricket captain, died in Cornwall on April 20 aged 93. He was born on May 2, 1901.

FIRST photographed holding a cricket bat at the age of three, for the rest of his life. Bob Wyatt either played or followed very closely the game he loved. He became, in 1968, England's oldest Test cricketer — a mantle which now passes to the Derbyshire leg spinner, T. B. Mitchell, who is 92 — and had long been a renowned source of cricketing wisdom. Only 17 batsmen have ever exceeded his aggregate of 39,405 first-class runs.

In 1932-33 he was vice-captain to Douglas Jardine, on the notorious "bodyline" tour of Australia, though he always maintained that the West Indian bowling attacks of recent times were just as menacing. He felt that helmets and bouncers restrictions would never have become necessary had the MCC adopted a proposal he made, shortly after the bodyline tour, of a line halfway down the pitch beyond which bowlers would have to pitch the ball.

Robert Elliott Storey Wyatt was born in Milford, Surrey, the son of a prep-school master, himself a good club cricketer. He was educated at King Henry VIII School, Coventry, his family having by then moved to the Midlands. His county career began with Warwickshire in 1923 and ended with Worcestershire in 1951. A useful bowler of off breaks mixed with gentle guile, he was in his early days, a genuine all-rounder who came into the selectors' reckoning in 1926, when he bowled 1,092 overs and took 92 wickets to go with the 1,485 runs he made that season. That winter he went to India with A. E. R. Gilligan's side, the first of his seven MCC tours.

Although an amateur, Wyatt was seldom unavailable to play cricket. At different times he worked in insurance, in engineering and on the administrative staff at Edgbaston. As Sir Pelham Warner wrote of him, "a keener cricketer never lived".

Despite narrowly missing selection for Australia in 1928-29, Wyatt was D. R. Jardine's vice-captain when MCC went there next in 1932-33 — and was back there again with G. O. Allen's side in 1936-37, when a broken arm kept him out of the first three Test matches. His astute observation, copious memory, close involvement and determined objectivity made him as reliable an authority as there



was on the ever-thorny subject of bodyline bowling.

But Wyatt was never thrown more dramatically into the public eye than when he was selected to replace A. P. F. Chapman as England's captain for the last Test against Australia at the Oval in 1930. It was a vital match, the series being level at one-all, and Wyatt was a controversial choice. Although he had been to South Africa in 1927-28, when he made the first of his two Test hundreds, and to the West Indies in 1929-30, and was by now the Warwickshire captain, he lacked the dynamism that had made Chapman one of England's most popular cricketers. Australia, too, had Don Bradman, who had already made 254 in the second Test and 334 in the third. On the perfect Oval pitch Bradman made 232, and nothing Wyatt could do (although he scored 64 in England's first innings) could prevent Australia

from winning by an innings and so regaining the Ashes.

Of Wyatt's 40 Test matches — the first at Johannesburg in 1927 and the last at Melbourne in 1937 — 12 were against Australia and 17 against South Africa. He captained England 15 times, against Australia next in 1934, when he had four Tests in charge and again had Bradman to contend with. He also took the MCC side to the Caribbean in 1934-35 for a Test series which brought West Indies their first major breakthrough and ended with Wyatt nursing a jaw badly broken by Martindale, one of the early West Indian fast bowlers. Fears that this might have a lasting effect on his confidence were soon allayed; the English season of 1935 brought him more than 2,000 runs and an innings of 149 in the First Test against South Africa. Although somewhat prone to injury, he had a reputation, nonetheless, for never flinching.

Between 1928 and 1938 there was only one season when Wyatt was not at the top of the Warwickshire batting averages. He captained the county from 1930 to 1937, taking them to fourth position in 1934, their best in the championship since 1911. When, in 1937, that county's small and venerable executive committee found him less flexible, on and off the field, than they would have liked, he was relieved of the captaincy among much local controversy. After the war he chose to finish his career with Worcestershire, whom he captained for three seasons.

During the last of these, by which time he was 50, Worcestershire found themselves needing six runs off the last ball of a championship match to beat Somerset. Wyatt duly obliged by driving H. T. F. Buse into the Taunton pavilion. Occasional appearances for MCC and the Free Foresters against the Universities continued until, by the time he played his last match, against Oxford in the Parks, he was 56. He finished with a career batting average of 40.05, made 85 centuries, took 901 wickets at 32.85 apiece and held 417 catches. For England he scored 1,839 runs (average 31.70) and took 18 wickets (average 35.60).

Discriminating yet unassuming, Wyatt reflected these characteristics in his batting style. By instinct a technician, he talked as capably and rationally about the theory of the game when he was 90 as he had as a player. His particular concern was the low law and the change made to it in 1935, which ruled that even when playing a stroke a batsman could be out to a ball pitched outside the off stump. This, in Wyatt's view, was a serious misjudgment. He believed it shifted the emphasis of the game from the glories of the leg-side to the greater constraints of the leg-side by encouraging inswinging and off spin bowling. Then, and for the rest of his life, Wyatt favoured, instead, a wider wicket.

He was an England selector, 1949-53, and chairman in 1950. In 1950 he became one of MCC's few honorary life vice-presidents. He retired to Cornwall, where surrounded by his wife's countless dogs, he indulged his interest in boats and from where he made regular expeditions to Lord's. In recent years and on the big occasions, he was invariably to be seen in J. Paul Getty's box at Lord's, attended by listeners eager to draw upon his encyclopaedic knowledge.

His wife, Mollie, and their only son survive him.

DENNIS HOBDEN

Dennis Hobden, Labour MP for Brighton, Kempton, 1964-70, died on April 20 aged 75. He was born January 21, 1920.



DENNIS HOBDEN was a post office catering manager who made a particular impact on the political scene in 1964 by becoming the first Labour Party candidate ever to win a Sussex seat in the House of Commons.

His victory was said to have set the china teacups of the Tories rattling in the elegant Regency terraces of the Kempton constituency, and not simply because he was a Labour Party candidate. More than that, he was a fervent left-winger who had resigned from the Labour Party in 1950 over the issue of the rearmament of Germany and spent a year as a member of the Communist Party before returning to the Labour fold.

Then in 1956 he had defended the Soviet Union's suppression of the Hungarian uprising, a stance that started a big row in the local Labour Party and resulted in Transport House refusing to put him on its panel of potential parliamentary candidates.

Eight years later, however, his zealous constituency work won favour locally and at the Labour Party headquarters, and enabled him to win Kempton by just seven votes — a result was that declared only after seven careful recounts.

Dennis Harry Hobden was the son of Charles and Agnes Hobden. Educated at elementary school, he began working for the General Post Office in 1934 and quickly became secretary of the local branch of the Union of Postal Workers. During the Second World War he served in bombers with the rank of flight lieutenant.

After the war he returned to the Post Office and joined the Labour Party, later serving as secretary and chairman of the Kempton constituency party and of the Brighton borough party.

In Parliament he was one of Harold Wilson's sternest critics over the Government's policy towards the Vietnam War, arguing that Britain should have condemned American actions there unre-

servedly and backed the Vietnamese people's struggle for freedom. He stressed that he was not anti-American but believed that the US had sunk to its lowest ebb of morality by its aggressive actions in South-East Asia.

At the 1966 election the closeness of the two parties in the Kempton constituency meant that news of an old age pensioner going into hospital could bring alarm and despondency to either camp, and talk by a voter of a change of allegiance could result in a panic visit by one or other of the candidates.

Once again the diligence of Hobden and his party activists paid off. With an 80 per cent turnout he increased his majority over the Conservative candidate who was standing in Kempton for the first time, from seven to 831.

Hobden's left-wing views were untempered and a year later he provoked a political storm by calling for a Popular Front between the Labour Party and the Communist Party. He was speaking at a dinner to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the October revolution in Russia. Capitalism had outlived its usefulness, he said and the Left, as he had seen it in Parliament, was a bogus Left.

The Parliamentary Labour Party decided to ignore such intemperate utterances and by 1968, Hobden's political career was beset by personal problems. Although his elevation from post office catering manager to MP had boosted his earnings from £20 a week to £62, he had left his wife and four children in 1966 and was having difficulty in maintaining three homes — one for his

family and another for himself in Brighton and a third near Westminster. Such were his financial difficulties that he publicly considered quitting Parliament.

However, he weathered that particular financial storm and remained in the House of Commons. But at the 1970 election, when Edward Heath led the Conservative Party to unexpected victory over Labour, his 831 majority was turned into a Conservative majority of 3,103.

Of the 70 Labour MPs who lost their seats in that election, Hobden suffered probably the greatest hardship. He was reduced initially to living on social security benefits, having signed on at the local labour exchange. By the end of the year, however, he had returned to the Post Office, where he worked selling stamps from behind the counter.

Hobden took this change of circumstances in his stride. He remained active in politics, serving on Brighton Borough Council and on the Post Office Workers' Union's parliamentary panel. His attempts to regain his parliamentary seat in the general elections of February and October 1974 were unsuccessful. The Conservative candidate retaining the seat with majorities of 4,020 and 2,665.

But Hobden continued to sit on Brighton Borough Council and such was the respect with which he was regarded that he served as Mayor in 1979 despite the fact that the Conservatives were the dominant party. When the Labour Party gained control in 1986 he chaired several council committees.

Hobden maintained an odd assortment of views and interests. In addition to being an active and prominent Freemason, he was also a Spiritualist. In later years his left-wing political views mellowed and he was philosophical about the demise of communism in Eastern Europe.

He remained a well-known and popular personality in Brighton and retained to the end his sense of mischief which had enlivened his political career.

Dennis Hobden is survived by his second wife, Sheila, and the two sons and two daughters of his first marriage.

EDWARD HENDERSON

Edward Firth Henderson, C.M.G., Arabist and Ambassador to Qatar, 1971-74, died on April 13 aged 77. He was born on December 12, 1917.

IN TURN soldier, businessman, diplomat and scholar, Edward Henderson was remarkable less for the distinction he achieved in any of these vocations than for the ease with which he wove them together. The thread that bound up all his activities was the Arab world; and in particular the Gulf, indeed, which informed almost all of his adult life.

During the 1930s he played an influential role in enabling the Sultan of Muscat to establish a united state of Muscat and Oman, thus gaining control of oil reserves with which to propel the development of the state's primitive economy and to help to increase the security of the Arabian Peninsula. Later he played a conspicuous part in the capture

and pacification of Bahrain, a large oasis in the north of Oman, an among rich oilfields which acted as a trading centre. An armed band of Saudi tribesmen supported by an American oil company eager for new concessions had taken control of Bahrain in breach of a standstill agreement between the British Government, acting on behalf of the Sultan of Muscat, and the ruler of Abu Dhabi. A British expedition of Trucial Oman Levies, with Henderson present as a political officer instructed to prevent bloodshed, captured Bahrain and removed the Saudis and their supporters.

Edward Firth Henderson was educated at Clifton College and at Brasenose College, Oxford. His was the generation which, above any other, was marked by the Second World War. He served in the Army throughout it, sometimes in unconventional capacities, and was mentioned in despatches. Afterwards he served in the British-occupied Arab Legion, before moving



in 1948, into the oil business. He pursued his business career in the Gulf for eight years before turning — in that climactic year for Britain in the Arab world, 1956 — to the Foreign Service. Henderson then spent 18

years in the Foreign Service, alternating between the Foreign Office and a variety of Arab posts. In London he never carried complete conviction. There was a sleepy gentleness about him that sat ill with the speedy and impersonal processing of issues and papers. When he was abroad it was another matter entirely. There Henderson could use to good effect his gentle charm and his interest in, and confidence with, people. Above all, he went on developing and putting to use, in increasingly senior positions, his understanding of the Arab mind and in particular of the strangely anachronistic world of the Gulf states.

In 1969, at the age of 52, Henderson was appointed Political Agent in Qatar. The post was tailor-made for him, and he stayed there for five years. Later he served as Ambassador, until his retirement from the public service in 1974.

It would have been hard to imagine him as a head of mission in a post where more

stringent qualities were called for, yet when he left Qatar it was equally hard to imagine anyone else bringing to the place the gentle authority which was his hallmark.

By the time of his retirement Henderson was still only 57. He knew the Gulf better than most Englishmen. He had seen it from the different standpoints of soldier, businessman and diplomat, and he had known it as it changed with such dramatic suddenness from almost medieval lethargy to an area whose oil gave it vital political, economic and commercial significance.

There were many markets for such knowledge, but Henderson turned to the academic. He lectured at a number of American universities, the archetypal expatriate Englishman. He was an honorary fellow at the London School of Economics and for five years he pursued a close academic relationship with institutions in Abu Dhabi.

In the early 1980s he served for a year as the Director of the Council for Advancement of Arab-British Understanding and for a further year as chairman of the American Educational Trust, before returning once again to the Gulf. And in 1988 he drew together his four decades of experience of the Arab world and the Gulf in *This Strange Eventful History*, a memoir of the early, now almost forgotten, days of what were to become the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Towards the end of his time in Qatar, Henderson was appointed C.M.G. In 1960 he had married Jocelyn Nerk, by whom he had two daughters. They settled in retirement in Oxfordshire. His wife and daughters survive him.

PROFESSOR JOHN FREMLIN

John Fremlin, Professor of Applied Radioactivity, Department of Physics, University of Birmingham, 1966-80, died on March 10 aged 82. He was born on March 4, 1913.



OVER a period of some 40 years John Fremlin developed techniques in the field of applied nuclear physics which have become established in numerous areas of this wide-ranging subject.

In the late 1950s his main interest turned from pure nuclear physics to the applications of cyclotron-produced radioisotopes in biological and other problems. Though radioactivity can be used for the assay of many chemical elements in minute quantity, Fremlin's collaboration with Dr J. L. Hardwick in studying the relation of fluorides to dental caries brought out other aspects of his inventiveness. He made sections of tooth material thinner than those achieved by the dental profession and his use of autoradiographic techniques enabled useful advances to be made in the study of the uptake of lead in teeth.

After a brief excursion into archaeology by way of the thermoluminescence of ancient fragments of pottery, Fremlin used radioactivity induced by neutrons for measuring the distribution of calcium in the living human skeleton, and followed that by studying the body content of other

biologically important elements.

Fremlin was always alert to radiation hazards, not only as hazards but as influences upon national policy and public opinion. As an expert witness at one public inquiry, he went some way to assuaging fears by eating fish caught in Cumbrian waters and measuring the almost infinitesimal amount of radioactivity passed through his own digestive system.

Descended from a well-known Kentish family, John Heaver Fremlin was born in Kingsbury, Middlesex. After attending Berkhamsted School, he went to Trinity College, Cambridge, where, after graduating in Physics, he remained as a research student under Lord Rutherford in the Cavendish Laboratory. His work on nuclear transmutations was directed by M. L. E. (now Sir Mark) Oliphant and led to the award of a PhD in 1938. It also brought Fremlin into contact with a young student from Southern Rhodesia, Reinert Maasdroop, who was working under Oliphant on Rutherford's own apparatus; they were married in 1937.

Having completed his doctoral studies, Fremlin was appointed to the staff of Standard Telephones and Cables, where he worked on the development of low-power short-wave "valves", as thermionic diodes, triodes and even magnetrons were then called. His field included applications of the important principle of velocity modulation.

At the end of the war he joined Oliphant at Birmingham, the latter having become head of department there a few years earlier. Fremlin's first years in Birmingham were devoted to the Nuffield Cyclotron, which became operational in 1949, just before Oliphant left for Australia.

Fremlin was a leading member of the cyclotron research group and was responsible for many technical developments of the machine, including its service as a source of radioisotopes for medical use. He became well-known for his pioneer transmutation work with heavy ions and for exploring the possibilities of the acceleration of negative ions. Fremlin's wife Reinert died in 1992; he is survived by a son and two daughters.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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NEWS

Police chief revolts over changes

■ Britain's most influential chief constable is in open revolt against the radical change in the pay and terms of employment of top police officers to be introduced by the Government.

John Hoddinott, chief constable of Hampshire and President of the Association of Chief Police Officers, has written to every other top officer in the country to say he will refuse a new fixed-term appointment and performance-related pay because they threaten his constitutional independence. Page 1

Oklahoma bomb suspects arrested

■ The FBI arrested one of the two prime suspects in Wednesday's Oklahoma City bombing. Justice Department sources said. Page 1

Bully's allowance

A boy aged ten who was suspended for terrorising a school was to be allowed back into lessons after agreeing to hit classmates only seven times a week. Page 1

Honour for Thatcher

Baroness Thatcher is to receive the Order of the Garter. Page 1

Tory rebels shunned

John Major is being advised by loyalist ministers to prolong the exile of most of the whipless Tory rebels. Page 2

Discrimination claim

The woman solicitor who has been blamed for "outing" the Law Society's Vice-President over sexual harassment is being taken to an industrial tribunal over alleged racial and sexual discrimination. Page 3

Negotiators praised

Scotland Yard negotiators won praise for their role in winning freedom for six Britons. Page 4

A wonder horse starts his campaign

■ At about 3pm a horse steps out at Newbury and tries to justify expectation that would have embarrassed Pegasus. Celtic Swift is only 6-1 to complete the Triple Crown, a feat last achieved by Nijinsky in 1970. Page 1

Cola market fizzy

The Prince of Wales is but one of the new players in the cola market. Page 8

Minister's protest

Alan Clark, the former Defence Minister, joined animal rights protesters at Dover and harangued police. Page 9

Malaria vaccine

Scientists at Oxford have created a potential vaccine against malaria. Page 10

Au revoir Mitterrand

France starts ringing down the curtain on the era of François Mitterrand tomorrow. Page 13

Nuclear pact offer

The Clinton Administration offered to upgrade negotiations with North Korea in an attempt to save a nuclear weapons accord. Page 15

Japan's terror

Noxious fumes spread through a store in Yokohama. Page 16



A Cambodian cycle-rickshaw driver is helped to right his vehicle near the central market in Phnom Penh

OPINION

Love and la patrie: France's presidential election system allows one vote with the heart and one with the head: this year's campaign for the Elysée may prove to be an affair of the heart through-out. Page 19

PAPERS

Many will want revenge for this vicious act that spared not even babies. It could lead to malicious stereotyping of innocent citizens who share only religious or political beliefs or ethnic backgrounds with the bombers. That must be avoided. — USA Today

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: The reaction to this week's outrage is dangerous. Governments must not be intimidated. Page 18

Peter Brimelow: America, they say, was built by its immigrants. But today's public immigration policy is threatening disaster. Page 18

OBITUARIES

R.E.S. Wyatt, former England cricket captain; Dennis Hobden, Labour MP for Brighton, Kempston, 1964-70; Edward Henderson, Arabist and diplomat; Professor John Fremlin, nuclear physicist. Page 21

LETTERS

On accusations of vulgarity at the National Film Theatre. Page 19

BUSINESS

Economy: A small fall in high-street sales and a rise in receiverships make a decision to raise interest rates more difficult. Page 23

Rothmans: The chairman of the tobacco group demanded that the Stock Exchange "get to the bottom of leaks" that sent the company's shares soaring hours before a £4.15 billion bid was announced. Page 23

Banking: Moving from Hong Kong to London knocked Sir William Purves, chairman of the company that owns the Midland Bank, out of the millionaire's club. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose by 25.2 points to 3199.9. Sterling's trade-weighted index ended unchanged at 94.5. Page 24

SPORTS

Football: Birmingham City and Carlisle United will attract 75,000 fans to Wembley stadium tomorrow for the Auto Windscreens Shield final. Page 43

Cricket: Graeme Hick, the England batsman, looks thin and only cautiously confident about his recovery after a back injury. Page 44

Boxing: David Miller analyses the threat posed by the German challenger who takes on George Foreman, the world champion grandfather, this weekend. Page 38

Motor sport at risk: A Bill going through Parliament could radically alter rallying in this country. Page 1

MAGAZINE

Clause and effect: In fighting the battle to ditch Clause 4, Tony Blair has passed the first real test of his leadership. Anne McElvoy writes. Page 8

Long distance Walker: Alan Jackson meets Scott Walker, back on track after an 11-year silence. Page 18

Fatal attraction: Charles Bremner falls for Fanny Ardant, the French femme fatale on and off screen. Page 32

Ahead for figures: Waists become the centre of attention, Iain R. Webb writes. Page 40

Photography competition: A chance to win £2,000 and to show your work at a top gallery. Page 45

WEEKEND

Cover story: As Take Our Daughters to Work Day approaches, Catherine Milton asks children about the day they spent at work. Pages 1, 3

Holy smoke: God moves in mysterious ways, and so does the Top Ten, says Richard Morrison on the popularity of religious music. Page 5

Globe goes up: The thatched roof is on the new Globe at Southwark, and plans are afoot for the new Globe at Southwark, and plans are afoot for the new Globe at Southwark. Page 5

Gardening: Top horticultural shows. Page 8

Travel: James MacManus on hotels that can keep children happy in the Caribbean. Page 18

VISION

Simon says: Simon Schama's *Landscape and Memory* on BBC2. Page 2

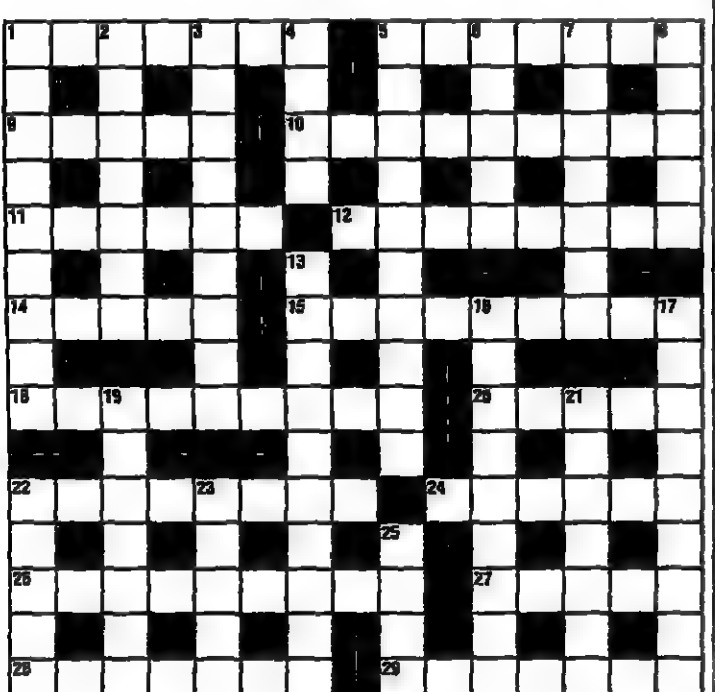
Viva diva: *Ombus* on the peculiar appeal of the operatic soprano. Page 3

Brando and Bogart: The pick of the week's films. Page 4

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,836

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a predetermined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 466, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



- ACROSS**
- One page in dictionary a student needed about a complex matter (7).
 - Dog rose for walk on Brighton front (7).
 - Escape the clutches of boy rejected by sweetheart (5).
 - Where the pharmacist draws his money? (9).
 - Philippine from one caught in traffic (6).
 - Big name bowled out by speed (6).
 - Demoralise a French soldier (5).
 - Part of joint bank, perhaps, one involving the French (5,4).
 - Grouse, though initially silent (9).
 - Champions among the three-quarters (5).
 - Short stories featuring the new girl's return (8).
 - Twist string holding key (6).
 - Refusing to recognise the college one's entered (9).
 - A great expense, once a shambles (5).
 - Exceptional rise expected from the surplus (7).
 - Skipper, say, is the one who takes risks (7).
- DOWN**
- Make one rough, say, knock out another (9).
 - Relief over the weight chart (7).
 - Fictitious name gets badly up my nose about Howard's End (9).
 - Old king gets love game (4).
 - Indicating person about to give an address (10).
 - Sharp edge to a couple of notes (5).
 - Subaltern, upset, concealed nothing the code of chivalry required (7).
 - See about a right forward (5).
 - Damage tomb occupied by popular German nobleman (10).
 - Enough space here for Katisha's exhibition? (5,4).
 - Oriental novelist occupying attention (9).
 - Crook is saved by counsels (7).
 - Clot justifies unceremonious dismissal most of all (7).
 - Part of marina dirty at deepest point (5).
 - Base notes expressing mood, say (5).
 - Keen to move sweet little Miss Brown up (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,830

MASSACHUSETTS
I I P E U O C A
R O S C O M M O N S H E L L
C A L E R H N O
H U L L O D I N F A I R
I G C S W R E
N I B I C K E L I T I S M
G A S T O E
O Y S T E R S B E N I S O N
R A D A R E T
O I E T A R I A S A L M I
E L P C N S A O
R H I N O A L D E B A R A N
S E U S O G E
P O R D M A D O X F O R D

Solution to Puzzle No 19,835

M I T I G A T E C A M P U S
O E U O N A L H I
P O R T A N T E A U H I
I R O U W M T E
S T I B U R P I N G O E S
H T O E U M
H O S P I T A L S O F I A
S R A N I N
T R A V O N C R I B B A G E
R E I T I V M
U P T I G H T B E G O R A
M A N U A L A O E R
P U B L I C R E L A T I O N S
E O G N S E U H
T A R G E T B A N D I T R Y

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: K.D. Williamson, Surbiton, Surrey; C. Pearson, Cliffe, Kent; J. Martin, Liverpool; J. Bhorner, Leyburn, Yorkshire; S. Packard, Brentwood, Essex.

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For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, call 0800 1 500 followed by the code

| Region | Code |
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| East of Scotland | 703 |
| East of Wales | 704 |
| East of Ireland | 705 |
| East of France | 706 |
| East of Germany | 707 |
| East of Spain | 708 |
| East of Italy | 709 |
| East of Greece | 710 |
| East of Turkey | 711 |
| East of Russia | 712 |
| East of China | 713 |
| East of India | 714 |
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| East of Tibet | 720 |
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| East of Sri Lanka | 723 |
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| East of Mauritius | 726 |
| East of Réunion | 727 |
| East of Madagascar | 728 |
| East of Comoros | 729 |
| East of Mayotte | 730 |

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| East of Scotland | 703 |
| East of Wales | 704 |
| East of Ireland | 705 |
| East of France | 706 |
| East of Germany | 707 |
| East of Spain | 708 |
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| Region | Code |
|---------------------|------|
| East of England | 701 |
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| East of Scotland | 703 |
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| East of Madagascar | 728 |
| East of Comoros | 729 |
| East of Mayotte | 730 |

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FORECAST

General: Northern England and North Wales will be dry, then cold, wet weather from the Midlands and southern England will reach northern districts during the morning. There will be heavy rain at times and a strong gale north or north-easterly wind. Brighter, warmer weather with a few showers will reach southern England in the morning and spread to all central and southern districts in the afternoon. Northern Scotland should have a mainly dry, sunny day. Southern Scotland will have rain from late afternoon.

London, SE England, Central S. England: early rain, turning brighter with a few showers. Wind strong northerly, becoming light southeasterly. Warmer, max 15C (59F).

E. Anglia, E. Midlands, E. England, W. Midlands, Central N. England: a wet morning, turning brighter and mainly dry in the afternoon. Wind strong northerly, becoming light southeasterly later. Max 14C (57F).

Channel Isles, SW England, S. Wales: wet into the afternoon, then brighter with showers, some heavy. Wind strong to gale northerly, becoming moderate southeasterly later. Cold, max 9C (48F).

N. Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England: bright at first, turning wet with some heavy rain. Snow on hills. Clearing up in the evening. Wind strong to gale northerly. Cold, max 9C (48F).

Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N. Ireland: sunny for a while, but rain late afternoon and evening. Max 11C (52F).

Aberdeen, Cent. Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, Shetland, Orkney, Shetland: mainly dry and sunny. A few showers. Chilly, max 9C (48F).

Outlook: some sunshine but showers or longer spells of rain.

AROUND BRITAIN

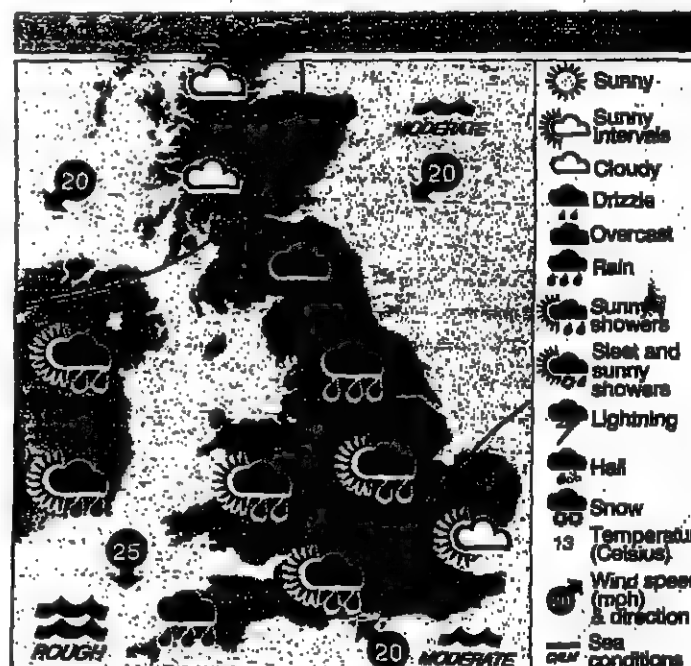
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HIGHEST & LOWEST

| Region | Code |
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| East of Comoros | 729 |
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Highest and lowest is charged at 20p per minute (cheap rates) and 40p per minute at all other times.



Weather conditions are shown on the map. The map is divided into regions with different weather symbols: Sunny, Cloudy, Drizzle, Overcast, Rain, Sunny showers, Sleet and sunny showers, Lightning, Hail, Snow, Temperature (Celsius), Wind speed (mph), and Sea conditions.

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MICHAEL CLARK 24

Stock market launches assault on 3,200 level



MELVYN MARCKUS 25

Our City Editor explores the Gas Bill



SPORT 38-44

Robson prepared to take centre stage once again

WEEKEND SPORTING FIXTURES
Page 43

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY APRIL 22 1995

Business failures increase

Fall in retail sales adds to rates dilemma

BY JANET BUSH AND JON ASHWORTH

THE dilemma facing the Chancellor when he meets the Governor of the Bank of England to discuss interest rates next month was sharpened yesterday by news of a small fall in high street sales in March and a rise in the number of receiverships in the first three months of this year.

This economic news adds to accumulating evidence that the economy is slowing down even before the full impact of higher mortgage payments and taxes, the latest round of which were implemented this month. On the other hand, Kenneth Clarke has to take into account cost pressures in industry and the weakness of sterling.

In recent weeks, there has been a strong consensus that Mr Clarke will accede to demands from the Bank of England to raise rates on May 5. But the latest evidence of economic slowdown means that many in the City are opposed to higher rates.

Retail sales fell by a seasonally adjusted 0.1 per cent in March compared with February, having jumped by 1.3 per cent in February. Statisticians and the British Retail Consortium argued that this was because of the timing of Easter but a longer run of figures confirmed that retail sales growth is stagnating.

Taking the latest three months against the previous three, a better guide to underlying trends, sales volume was down 0.1 per cent, according to the Central Statistical Office. Volumes were up only 1.5 per cent in the latest three months compared with a year ago.

Mr Clarke welcomed the

figures, saying that he did not want an artificial consumer boom that would not last. But many in the City are now arguing that another rate rise could produce overkill and too slow a recovery.

Richard Jeffrey, chief economist at Charterhouse Group, suggested that a decision to raise interest rates next month based on sterling's present weakness could prove to be counter-productive. "The short term capital attracted by higher rates could be outweighed considerably by long-term money flooding out as the economy drops into a hole."

Fears of another rise in interest rates subsided as the latest slide in retail sales was taken as further evidence of a slowdown in the economy. Investors were encouraged as share prices attacked the 3,200 level. The FT-SE 100 index closed 25.2 points higher at 3,199.9, reducing the fall on the week to 8.9 points. Gilt scores gained of up to 14.

"This would only exacerbate sterling's difficulties," he said. Richard Brown, deputy director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said businesses and consumers are proving to be highly sensitive to recent interest rate and tax rises. He urged the authorities to resist interest rate rises "for any reason other than to control domestic inflation".

Compounding concerns about the state of the economy yesterday were figures showing that the number of business receiverships increased by 5.6 per cent to 507 in the

first three months of the year compared with the previous three months, according to KPMG, the accountant.

The number of receiverships was still 16 per cent lower than for the same time last year, suggesting that the recovery remains on course, but Tim Hayward, KPMG's head of corporate recovery, said that it would be over-optimistic to assume there would be any further substantial fall in the number of corporate failures during the rest of the year.

The retail sector remains particularly vulnerable to fragile demand. Some 58 retail outlets went into receivership in the first quarter of 1995, compared with 51 in the same period in 1994. The latest casualty of the sector is Booksense, a bargain books-to-stationery company based in Northampton which has just called in the receivers, placing 200 jobs at risk.

UK government bonds ended with modest gains yesterday on the evidence of weakening growth which limits inflationary worries and provides an argument against higher base rates.

Sterling — along with other currencies, notably the dollar — had a quiet day as foreign exchange dealers exercised caution ahead of next week's meetings in Washington — the Group of Seven on Tuesday, and the International Monetary Fund on Wednesday and Thursday.

The pound ended unchanged from Thursday's close on its trade weighted index at 84.5. The dollar was quoted in late European trading near its lows for the day at around DM1.3730 and Y82.85.



Attendance at the Paris theme park is finally looking up

Losses tumble at Euro Disney

BY MARTIN WALLER

A SHARP upturn in the fortunes of Euro Disney, owner of the theme park east of Paris, prompted a boost in the value of the shares and hopes that the project could be heading for its first profit.

Euro Disney says net losses in the less important winter half to March 31 fell to Fr241 million from Fr1.06 billion, mainly because of financial restructuring last year; this cut the amount payable to its parent, the Walt Disney Company in the US, but majority of the improvement came from a Fr600 million reduction in lease rental expenses.

The park is now on target for attendance figures of 10.5 million in the current year, at the top end of forecasts given during the restructuring but well below expectations of 13 million a year when the shares were floated in 1989.

This would be a sharp rise from the 8.9 million people who visited the attraction last year but it would come at the expense of spending per head — hotel room rates were cut last year, and entry prices have been cut for this summer season.

Philippe Bourguignon, the chairman and chief executive, warned shareholders against too high hopes before the full attendance picture was known. "These results show we are on the right track. Nevertheless, it is premature to draw conclusions on the full year before the end of the summer," he said.

Higher attendance during the winter helped send revenues at the park ahead by 9 per cent, while a rise in occupancy rates meant hotel revenues were 7 per cent up.

Euro Disney shares, 18p in January, rose 17p to 188p. Rebecca Warrington-Ingram, leisure analyst at Morgan Stanley, said: "People aren't spending more after they come through the gates, but at least they are coming through in greater numbers."

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WEEKEND MONEY



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Switching your bank account. The new contenders



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The new-style credit cards. A good deal?



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The good buys. The best and worst performers

Rothmans seeks answers on leak

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

LORD Swaythling, chairman of Rothmans, the tobacco group, last night demanded that the Stock Exchange "get to the bottom of leaks" that sent Rothmans shares racing ahead in heavy turnover only hours before a group announcement of a buy-out approach by Richmond.

Rothmans shares, initially jumped 41p to 529p on Thursday morning even before the Stock Exchange obliged Rothmans to issue a holding announcement that talks were under way. The shares subsequently climbed to 593p and, after confirmation that Richmond was to offer 62p for the rest of Rothmans it does not already own, the shares rose again to close up 118p at 606p.

The Stock Exchange is investigating the heavy turnover and sharp share price movements.

Lord Swaythling said the companies and their advisers had worked on the proposals "for several months" without any leak.

He noted that, on three successive days before Thursday's official announcement, Rothmans' share price had fallen. "It was only on the morning of our announcement which we rushed out and the share price started to run. There has been a leak. I am furious. It is unhealthy and unsatisfactory. There should be no excuse why the Stock Exchange can't get to the bottom of the leak."

Tempus, page 24

Chrysler chief could make \$8m

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN NEW YORK

ROBERT EATON, the Chrysler chief executive, who has vowed to fight Kirk Kerkorian's \$23 billion bid for his company, stands to walk away with at least \$8 million profit from share options if the deal goes through. This would add to the \$7.6 million Mr Eaton has received since 1992 in salary and bonus payments.

The latest proxy statement from America's third-largest carmaker reveals that in the event of a change in control of the firm, all unexercised share options held by top management would become exercisable. Mr Eaton is listed as controlling a total of 517,404 shares and share options at the end of 1994, ranging from \$35 to \$47. Mr Kerkorian's offer to pay \$55 a share represents a 40 per cent premium on Chrysler's closing price of \$39.25 on April 11, the day before the bid.

The document shows that Mr Eaton's 1994 salary was \$1,063,750, but his bonus was \$2,200,000. Although Chrysler announced record 1994 profits, the first quarter of this year saw earnings slump 37 per cent to \$992 million or \$1.59 a share from \$938 million or \$2.35 per share in 1994.

Money managers are losing faith in Mr Kerkorian's ability to pull off the takeover. In a blow to the proposal's credibility, Bear Stearns, the US broker, told Chrysler on Wednesday it would not participate in the takeover. Investors responded by sending Chrysler shares \$1.75 lower to \$44.50 on Thursday. Yesterday they edged up at midday to \$44.85.

Bank chief's pay falls to £633,000

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT



Purves: housing benefit

MOVING from Hong Kong to London last year knocked Sir William Purves, chairman of HSBC Holdings, out of the millionaire's club. His pay for 1994 fell from £1.06 million to £633,000.

According to HSBC's annual report, his pay in 1993 included housing and other benefits which, said the bank, are standard for expatriates working in Hong Kong.

HSBC moved its headquarters to London as a condition for its acquisition of Midland Bank in 1992. Sir William received some benefits in 1993 as he did not make the move to London until October 1993.

The report also shows that HSBC paid out £550,000 in compensation to a senior executive last year. The payment was disclosed in the bank's annual report, but it refused to give further details.

It is thought the payment was made to one of five senior executives who were HSBC's highest-paid employees last year, other than directors. The five, thought to be traders, made between £600,000 and £750,000 last year, including bonus payments totalling £1.3 million.

The highest-paid director last year was John Gray, chairman and chief executive of Hongkong Bank, which contributes the bulk of HSBC's profits. That includes about £400,000 in housing benefits. His basic pay was £366,000. In 1994 the Hong Kong region contributed £1.4 billion of HSBC's £3.17 billion pre-tax profits, compared with £982,000 from the UK.

Keith Whiston, who took over as chief executive of Midland Bank from Sir Brian Pearse last year, was paid £320,000 including a £45,000 bonus. His pay is low compared with the heads of the other big four UK banks, though it reflects only nine months as in the job.

| FT-SE 100 | 3199.9 | (+25.2) |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|
| Yield | 4.59% | |
| FT-SE All Share | 1858.15 | (+10.68) |
| Yield | 4.59% | |
| New York | 4052.79 | (+22.13)* |
| Dow Jones | 507.51 | (+2.22)* |
| S&P Composite | | |
| Federal Funds | 5.75% | (7.25) |
| Long Bond | 7.38% | (7.38%) |
| Yield | | |
| 3-month Interbank | 6.5% | (6.5%) |
| Libor 3m | 10.4% | (10.4%) |
| Future (Libor) | | |
| New York | 1.6100* | (1.6090) |
| London | 1.6107 | (1.6127) |
| DM | 1.6138 | (1.6149) |
| FF | 7.3510 | (7.3710) |
| S&P | 1.6299 | (1.6290) |
| Yen | 128.07 | (128.79) |
| Y Index | 84.5 | (84.5) |
| 3-Month | | |
| London | 1.3748* | (1.3945) |
| DM | 1.3827* | (1.4019) |
| FF | 1.3960* | (1.4162) |
| S&P | 82.09* | (82.29) |
| Y Index | 87.6 | (87.5) |
| Tokyo close Yen | 82.77 | |
| Brent 15-day (oil) | \$18.85 | (\$18.10) |
| London close | \$30.55 | (\$30.75) |

Liberty boost

Strong trading at its flagship Regent Street store in London helped Liberty boost profits 28 per cent last year. The new Liberty at Heathrow helped. Three new store openings are planned. Page 25

TALKING ABOUT MORTGAGES

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Bank of Ireland Mortgages



STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Bears scuttle for cover as index nears 3,200

STOCK MARKET bears scuttling for cover as share prices shrugged off their worries about another rise in interest rates to launch a sustained assault on the 3,200 level.

In the event, they failed, falling short of their target by a whisker with the FT-SE 100 index sporting a rise at the close of 25.2 to 3,199.9. Yesterday's performance did, however, restrict the fall on the week to just 8.9 points.

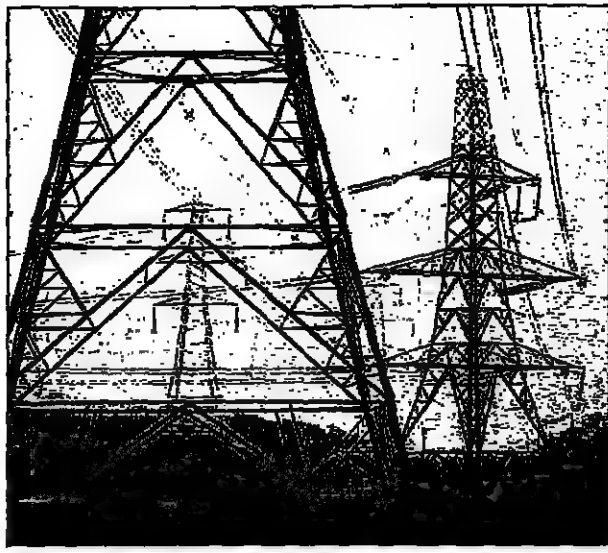
Brokers said the revival in investor confidence was triggered by the reversal for retail sales during March after February's rise. This may have been bad news for the stores sector, but was received by the City as further evidence of a slowdown in the economy.

Dealers are hoping it may postpone the need for a further rise in interest rates which was hinted at in the minutes published this week of the last meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. A late wobble by the pound on the currency markets did nothing to dampen their enthusiasm.

There were also technical factors at work behind yesterday's performance, including the expiry of the April FT-SE 100 index options. Brokers said prices had been squeezed higher as market-makers struggled to cover several bad positions. Trading conditions generally remained thin although the subsequent manoeuvring among market-makers helped to swell turnover to 676 million shares.

There was a renewed flurry of speculative buying among the electricity distributors. London Electricity stood out with a rise of 1p at 650p, with almost 1 million shares changing hands as a story went round that Total, the US oil giant, was ready to bid. Total moved quickly to deny the story. Brokers said it sounded as if someone had got the wrong end of the stick, but it helped to redirect the spotlight back on the sector.

There was also speculative support for Northern, with the price climbing 3p to 80p after this week's call for an extraordinary general meeting to discuss a proposal for the company to accept a restructured bid of 95p a share from Trafalgar House. Trafalgar allowed an offer of £1 a share to lapse after the industry regulator threatened



There was a flurry of speculative buying among Recs

tougher price controls for the Recs. Trafalgar then reduced its offer to 95p a share, but could not get the approval of the Northern board. A shareholder pressure group headed by Wyser-Praet, the Wall Street broker, claims to have the backing of 10 per cent of shareholders.

Elsewhere in the sector, there were gains for East

peurs are hoping for a cash offer for their shares within the next couple of months to make a turn on the margin. They claim this would offer a better return than leaving their cash in the bank.

Vendôme, the luxury goods group, which was floated off from Rothmans and is still 70 per cent owned by Rothmans, jumped 19p to 497p. BAT

Dalgety, the Homepride flour group, dropped 1p to 433p after BZW turned bearish of the shares. BZW is concerned that its recent £442 million acquisition of the Quaker Oats per foods business may turn out to be expensive. BZW is believed to have cut its pre-tax profits forecast for next year by £10 million to £148 million.

Midland, 15p to 669p. Eastern, 8p to 634p. Midlands, 8p to 650p. Southern, 13p to 660p and Yorkshire, 13p to 691p.

The international arbitrageurs were busy again in shares of Rothmans International, 2p firm at 608p, as more than 16 million shares were traded. Rothmans, the tobacco giant, this week said it was ready to offer 625p a share, sending the share price soaring by more than £1. The arbitrageurs

Industries, now likely to become Britain's only tobacco producer, celebrated with a rise of 13p to 456p.

Hopes of a bid soon continue to drive Kwik Save, the food retailer, sharply higher. The price added a further 13p to 608p. A week ago, it was 557p. There is growing speculation that Hong Kong-based Dairy Farms may be close to selling its near 30 per cent stake in the company to a bidder. Meanwhile, Tesco eased 3p to 269p

as UBS, the broker, urged clients to switch into J Sainsbury, up 3p to 425p.

Euro Disneyland responded positively to news of reduced losses and an encouraging statement on prospects with a rise of 17p to 188p. In the first six months of the current year, the group cut pre-tax losses from £1 billion to £241 million. The theme park, near Paris, saw revenues grow by 9 per cent after a sharp rise in attendance levels, although this was partly offset by seasonal prices for locals and reduced food prices.

The directors of Futecare Group were forced to issue a statement about the recent strength in the share price after another increase of 3p to 691p. The executive directors say they have approached the board with a view to making a bid for the company. The board says no firm proposals have yet been received.

Scott Pickford, the oil services group, dropped 10p to 30p after issuing a profits warning. The group said profits in the second six months would fall short of the £30 million earned during the first half. It blamed poor sales of geoscience reports and provisions totalling £15 million.

Tony Burch is to split his dual roles of chairman and chief executive with non-executive director Michael Feilden until a permanent successor can be appointed. Tony Phipps has resigned from the board and several non-executive directors have been appointed.

Northern Water rose 3p to 903p after securing a 25-year waste disposal contract from Cleveland Council worth £250 million.

GILT-EDGED: Prices traded higher in thin conditions, with sentiment bolstered by the drop in retail sales for March. Prices closed near their best of the day in spite of a shake-out for sterling during late trading.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt climbed 4p to £104 1/2 in disappointing turnover, with only 30,000 contracts completed.

Among conventional issues, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 firmed 1/4 to 597 1/2, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 rose 1/4 to 593 1/2. NEW YORK: Wall Street shares were stronger, and the Dow Jones industrial average was 22.13 points ahead at 4,252.79 by midday.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 4252.79 (+22.13)
S&P Composite 507.51 (+2.22)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 16968.24 (+225.18)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 8645.39 (+14.00)

Amsterdam:
SIX Index 406.42 (+2.48)

Sydney:
ASX 2000.00 (+25.11)

Frankfurt:
DAX 1976.64 (+20.67)

Singapore:
Straits 2079.50 (+40.20)

Brussels:
General 7231.16 (+97.57)

Paris:
CAC-40 1928.37 (+46.37)

Zurich:
SIX 899.50 (+4.60)

London:
FT 30 2435.9 (+14.5)

FT 100 3199.6 (+25.2)

FTSE Mid 200 2905.1 (+15.8)

FTSE Small 250 1389.4 (+11.7)

FTSE Europe 100 1389.4 (+11.7)

FT All-Share 1569.15 (+10.6)

FT Non Financials 1693.52 (+11.2)

FT Financials 1111.12 (+4.12)

FT Govt Secs 92.41 (+0.20)

FTSE 100 Volume 2534

FTSE 100 Turnover 151.43 (+0.21)

US:
Dow Jones 4252.79 (+22.13)

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NASDAQ 1101.12 (+11.2)

Lighting up the market

RICHMONTS' £415 billion bid for Rothmans appears a formality — it is hard for independent shareholders to argue the case when a 61 per cent majority owner wants to take in the minority and is backed by the directors. While the minority shareholders may feel piqued that the bid is being pulled from under them, they can hardly argue they are being bought out cheap. The offer is 28 per cent higher than the market price before news of the bid leaked.

The price Richmond is offering is good news for investors in the rest of the tobacco sector — it is shareholders in BAT, the only remaining British tobacco stock. Richmond is paying around 12 times earnings plus depreciation for Rothmans, a third more than the market price of BAT, despite yesterday's 3 per cent rise in the latter. Even then Richmond's offer looks

reasonable, given that Rothmans is generating around £800 million and is owning another £130 million a year. Richmond's offer also makes BAT's acquisition of American Tobacco last year look particularly cheap. Rothmans is costing 75 times operating earnings before depreciation, against American Tobacco's lowly 3.7 times, which seems excessive in spite of America's legal risks in the US.

It is always difficult to value BAT's tobacco interest once its financial services businesses are stripped out. But a rough estimate would suggest that the market values those businesses on a p/e of less than seven. In time, more investors are likely to appreciate the strength of the cash flow from the cigarette business. Rothmans shareholders could do worse than recycle Richmond's cash into BAT.

Euro Disney

FOLLOWERS of Euro Disney were keen to emphasise that its half-way figures yesterday were only slightly better than expected. While the company has been cautious about this year and forecast that the all-important break-even will come next time, our two brokers now hope that the figures this year will be positive.

This would be a significant turning point for the project, but it would not mean all was well in the Magic Kingdom. Break-even alone does not leave much scope for paying dividends. Euro Disney is basing its hopes on the new Space Mountain white knuckle ride and a 20 per cent cut in ticket prices this summer, but it would be asking a lot for this to change the park's fortunes overnight. September 1996, the end of

Liberty

SLOWLY but surely Liberty is emerging as a more modern company. The businesses have been overhauled and the retailing side is beginning to deliver results more closely in line with its peers.

The retail operations, which account for three-quarters of sales, remain the backbone of the group. Operating margins improved by more than 1 percentage point last year and a similar increase is likely this year. A new knitwear line, smaller than the current line, is being launched at higher margin fashion accessories and gift products rather than the full fabrics and furnishings range should help bolster profits and the Muiji chain is expected to move into the black this year. Even so, operating margins will remain below average for the sector, so there is scope for further improvement.

Turning round the textile division looks more difficult. The business has made losses

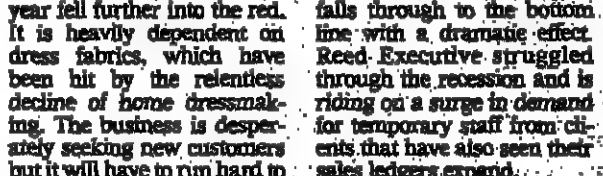
Reed Executive

THE employment agency business is highly geared with high fixed costs, where a modest upturn in volume falls through to the bottom line with a dramatic effect. Reed Executive struggled through the recession and is riding on a surge in demand for temporary staff from clients that have also seen their sales leaders expand.

The improvement in Reed's fortunes is a reminder of just what a cash generative business employment agency is. The group has already re-built a cash reserve of £2 million and has a sales ledger of another £2 million, which will steadily convert into cash. But Reed is a family-dominated, conservative business and shows little urge to throw its money around, on acquisitions. Instead, the cash is likely to be spent on a share buy-back, which would enhance earnings still further. As a result the shares, although they stand on an historic p/e ratio of 16, look good value at 124 1/2p.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

A SPRINKLE OF PIXIE DUST



MOVERS OF THE WEEK

| Current | Week's | Notes |
|------------------------|--------|----------------------------|
| Rothmans International | +50p | Richmond bid takes |
| Scott Pickford | +30p | Profits warning |
| Kwik Save | +13p | Food retailer |
| Enterprise Oil | +10p | Firm oil price |
| FLM Mining | +43p | Talk of a bid from Hanson |
| Crest Nicholson | +5p | Profits warning |
| Travis Perkins | +27p | Profits warning |
| Cable & Wireless | +40p | Earnings slowdown feared |
| Northern Electric | +10p | Call for new Trafalgar bid |

Underlying activity price.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCA: 1000-1004, 1005-1009, 1010-1014, 1015-1019, 1020-1024, 1025-1029, 1030-1034, 1035-1039, 1040-1044, 1045-1049, 1050-1054, 1055-1059, 1060-1064, 1065-1069, 1070-1074, 1075-1079, 1080-1084, 1085-1089, 1090-1094, 1095-1099, 1100-1104, 1105-1109, 1110-1114, 1115-1119, 1120-1124, 1125-1129, 1130-1134, 1135-1139, 1140-1144, 1145-1149, 1150-1154, 1155-1159, 1160-1164, 1165-1169, 1170-1174, 1175-1179, 1180-1184, 1185-1189, 1190-1194, 1195-1199, 1200-1204, 1205-1209, 1210-1214, 1215-1219, 1220-1224, 1225-1229, 1230-1234, 1235-1239, 1240-1244, 1245-1249, 1250-1254, 1255-1259, 1260-1264, 1265-1269, 1270-1274, 1275-1279, 1280-1284, 1285-1289, 1290-1294, 1295-1299, 1300-1304, 1305-1309, 1310-1314, 1315-1319, 1320-1324, 1325-1329, 1330-1334, 1335-1339, 1340-1344, 1345-1349, 1350-1354, 1355-1359, 1360-1364, 1365-1369, 1370-1374, 1375-1379, 1380-1384, 1385-1389, 1390-1394, 1395-1399, 1400-1404, 1405-1409, 1410-1414, 1415-1419, 1420-1424, 1425-1429, 1430-1434, 1435-1439, 1440-1444, 1445-1449, 1450-1454, 1455-1459, 1460-1464, 1465-1469, 1470-1474, 1475-1479, 1480-1484, 1485-1489, 1490-1494, 1495-1499, 1500-1504, 1505-1509, 1510-1514, 1515-1519, 1520-1524, 1525-1529, 1530-1534, 1535-1539, 1540-1544, 1545-1549, 1550-1554, 1555-1559, 1560-1564, 1565-1569, 1570-1574, 1575-1579, 1580-1584, 1585-1589, 1590-1594, 1595-1599, 1600-1604, 1605-1609, 1610-1614, 1615-1619, 1620-1624, 1625-1629, 1630-1634, 1635-1639, 1640-1644, 1645-1649, 1650-1654, 1655-1659, 1660-1664, 1665-1669, 1670-1674, 1675-1679, 1680-1684, 1685-1689, 1690-1694, 1695-1699, 1700-1704, 1705-1709, 1710-1714, 1715-1719, 1720-1724, 1725-1729, 1730-1734, 1735-1739, 1740-1744, 1745-1749, 1750-1754, 1755-1759, 1760-1764, 1765-1769, 1770-1774, 1775-1779, 1780-1784, 1785-1789, 1790-1794, 1795-1799, 1800-1804, 1805-1809, 1810-1814, 1815-1819, 1820-1824, 1825-1829, 1830-1834, 1835-1839, 1840-1844, 1845-1849, 1850-1854, 1855-1859, 1860-1864, 1865-1869, 1870-1874, 1875-1879, 1880-1884, 1885-1889, 1890-1894, 1895-1899, 1900-1904, 1905-1909, 1910-1914, 1915-1919, 1920-1924, 1925-1929, 1930-1934, 1935-1939, 1940-1944, 1945-1949, 1950-1954, 1955-1959, 1960-1964, 1965-1969, 1970-1974, 1975-1979, 1980-1984, 1985-1989, 1990-1994, 1995-1999, 2000-2004, 2005-2009, 2010-2014, 2015-2019, 2020-2024, 2025-2029, 2030-2034, 2035-2039, 2040-2044, 2045-2049, 2050-2054, 2055-2059, 2060-2064, 2065-2069, 2070-2074, 2075-2079, 2080-2084, 2085-2089, 2090-2094, 2095-2099, 2100-2104, 2105-2109, 2110-2114, 2115-2119, 2120-2124, 2125-2129, 2130-2134, 2135-2139, 2140-2144, 2145-2149, 2150-2154, 2155-2159, 2160-2164, 2165-2169, 2170-2174, 2175-2179, 2180-2184, 2185-2189, 2190-2194, 2195-2199, 2200-2204, 2205-2209, 2210-2214, 2215-2219, 2220-2224, 2225-2229, 2230-2234, 2235-2239, 2240-2244, 2245-2249, 2250-2254, 2255-2259, 2260-2264, 2265-2269, 2270-2274, 2275-2279, 2280-2284, 2285-2289, 2290-2294, 2295-2299, 2300-2304, 2305-2309, 2310-2314, 2315-2319, 2320-2324, 2325-2329, 2330-2334, 2335-2339, 2340-2344, 2345-2349, 2350-2354, 2355-2359, 2360-2364, 2365-2369, 2370-2374, 2375-2379, 2380-2384, 2385-2389, 2390-2394, 2395-2399, 2400-2404, 2405-2409, 2410-2414, 2415-2419, 2420-2424, 2425-2429, 2430-2434, 2435-2439, 2440-2444, 2445-2449, 2450-2454, 2455-2459, 2460-2464, 2465-2469, 2470-2474, 2475-2479, 2480-2484, 2485-2489, 249

A backdoor break-up of British Gas?

Earlier this week *The Times* highlighted United Gas's passionate support for Conservative MP Alan Duncan's proposed amendment to the Gas Bill aimed at forcing British Gas to convert TransCo, its pipeline and storage operation, into a legally distinct subsidiary.

United Gas, led by Peter Bryant, vice-chairman, and Roger Turner, managing director, apparently sees this as a necessary exercise in transparency. As our article pointed out, the affairs of United Gas are not necessarily perceived as a model of glasnost.

The pivotal company in the complex ownership of United Gas is Utilicorp UK Inc, a Delaware-registered enterprise which, via two subsidiaries, controls 100 per cent of United Gas.

Utilicorp UK Inc, a Kansas-based corporation, controls 75 per cent of Utilicorp UK Inc, the other 25 per cent being held by Norland Gas Marketing. As of last October, Norland Gas

Marketing was controlled by five directors, four of whom, Bryant, Turner, Mark Conway and Sir Ian MacGregor, former head of the National Coal Board, also grace the board of United Gas.

Last year *The Times* disclosed that directors of Norland Gas Marketing had formed ten companies — based in a terrace house in Hestoncombe Avenue, southwest London — to take advantage of the UK's gas release programme, designed to encourage new competitors into the industrial gas market. Hestoncombe Avenue entities such as Dogstar, Eucorium and Zestry applied for release gas, in spite of the fact that United Gas had made its own application, as had six associate enterprises (owned in conjunction with half a dozen regional electricity companies) such as Northern Gas, Southern Gas and Western Gas.

No applicant was permitted more than one application, but the Hestoncombe venture took advantage of the fact that the

letter, if not the spirit, of the regulations could be complied with if ownership of further companies was kept below 50 per cent.

What might have been of interest, to an inquisitive soul such as myself, was how much money was made or lost on this venture? Each Hestoncombe enterprise received 1.43 million therms of gas, making a total of 14.3 million therms. Dogstar and its sister companies were not renowned for their activity in the end-user market, so who did they sell to? For each 1p gain or loss, Bryant and his colleagues stood to gain or lose £143,000 overall.

Such answers might have been in the public domain by now had not the "Hestoncombe Ten" changed their year ends from March 1994 to end-December 1993. The companies are reported not to have traded during the nine months to December 31, 1993. In the event, the 1994 accounts do not have to be filed until November 1995. The annual returns, which



MELVYN MARCKUS

would disclose any changes in ownership, were due on April 5 and have still not been filed. Quite why Norland Gas Marketing's former direct 25 per cent stake in United Gas is now held through a similar interest in Delaware-registered Utilicorp UK Inc is not something that shines through United Gas's peculiar brand of transparency. Such matters were noted in

Westminster, not least by the Standing Committee debating the Gas Bill in general and last Thursday, the subject of fit and proper applicants in particular. Modesty does not prevent me from quoting Martin O'Neill, Labour MP for Clackmannan. "The Times showed the complex — almost Byzantine — character of the activities of Utilicorp and United Gas in which several companies are concerned... Transparency is being pursued and one could wish that those seeking it would organise comparable transparency in their own arrangements, so that Mr Melvyn Marckus's investigative skills were not required to establish clarity." Judith Church, Labour MP for Dagenham, went further, saying: "Overall, United Gas seems happy to ignore the legislation to hide information from the public and to preach 'pay virtue' in public while enjoying fat-cat practice in private. Does the Minister... think that these are fit and proper

persons who can be trusted by the public to supply their gas?" What the Standing Committee should dwell on is that those calling for a "legally distinct subsidiary" are clearly in sympathy with those involved in the long-running plot to force British Gas to divest itself (contrary to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's recommendations) of some 90 per cent of its UK asset base.

The most avid proponents of such action are the husband-and-wife team of Colin Robinson ("Blue Robbo"), Professor of Economics at Surrey University, and Eileen Marshall, who, early last year, moved from Offer (where she created meter chaos) to become No 2 at Ofgas shortly after Clare Spottiswoode took over as Director-General.

In February, Ms Spottiswoode's view — in a paper published by Ofgas — was as follows. "Although the MMC's recommendation for divestment [surely of trading, not trans-

portation?] was rejected by the Secretary of State, the Director-General continued to discuss the matter with British Gas with a view to placing TransCo rather than the trading businesses in a separate subsidiary. It became clear, however, that creating a subsidiary would be a major task, and if it were to be achieved in response to the MMC's recommendations [never made] it would be likely to clash with the introduction of competition in the domestic sector."

Ogas has not made clear its views on the Alan Duncan amendment. Perhaps Dr Marshall might care to divulge whether divestment of transportation and storage is still on her agenda? Does she agree with Ms Spottiswoode that "separation" should not coincide with domestic competition? Surely the Standing Committee would like to know precisely where Ofgas's No 1 and No 2 stand on this issue. Is a backdoor break-up of British Gas being planned?

Big jump at Reed Executive

Reed Executive, the recruitment agency, saw pre-tax profits surge to £6.4 million (£665,000) in the year to January 1. Turnover climbed to £115 million (£89.8 million).

Exceptional items of £524,000 depressed the previous set of results. Earnings per share were 7.6p (0.2p). An unchanged final dividend of 1p a share makes a total of 2p a share for the year (1p). Alec Reed, chairman, said permanent recruitment business was running at about 60 per cent of pre-recession levels.

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BAT change

Tommy Sandefur is retiring on medical grounds as chairman and chief executive of Brown & Williamson, BAT Industries' US tobacco subsidiary. His successor, Nick Brooks, is currently in charge of new business development for the group, having previously been chairman and chief executive of BAT (UK & Export), the company responsible for cigarette exports from the UK.

BS advances

BS Group, the Bristol greyhound racing and property company, made a pre-tax profit of £761,000 (£246,000 loss) in the year to December 31, helped by gains on restaurant and property disposals. Earnings per share were 12.75p (loss 3.81p). A final dividend of 1.5p a share makes a total of 4.5p a share (nil) for the year.

Elys ahead

Elys (Wimbledon), the department store in south-west London, made a pre-tax profit of £409,000 (£336,000) in the year to January 31. Earnings per share were 22.1p (19.4p). A final dividend of 16p (15.5p) a share makes a total of 38p (37p) for the year.

| | Bank | Share |
|-------------|----------|----------|
| Austria | 8.39 | 2.12 |
| Austria Sch | 16.72 | 10.22 |
| Belgium | 48.95 | 44.85 |
| Canada | 2.908 | 2.146 |
| Canada Cpt | 0.752 | 0.897 |
| Denmark | 5.40 | 8.80 |
| Finland | 0.28 | 0.28 |
| France | 0.23 | 7.08 |
| Germany | 2.30 | 2.18 |
| Germany Dm | 2.30 | 2.18 |
| Hong Kong | 13.05 | 12.05 |
| Ireland | 1.05 | 1.05 |
| Ireland Pt | 1.05 | 1.05 |
| Italy | 2.985.00 | 2.985.00 |
| Japan | 140.00 | 135.00 |
| Japan Yen | 0.002 | 0.002 |
| Netherlands | 2.454 | 2.454 |
| Norway | 10.65 | 9.35 |
| Portugal | 247.00 | 228.50 |
| S Africa | 1.05 | 1.05 |
| Spain | 205.50 | 185.50 |
| Sweden | 12.55 | 11.75 |
| Switzerland | 1.05 | 1.05 |
| Turkey Lira | 1.05 | 0.002.00 |
| USA | 1.704 | 1.574 |

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Behind the Mirror

With the share price of Mirror Group in the doldrums the City is asking whether David Montgomery's strategy matches either his ability or his resources...

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

Ryanair attacks EU over subsidy for Aer Lingus

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

A NEW dispute over state subsidies to European national airlines broke out yesterday, raising doubts over the commitment of Brussels to establishing a free market and deregulating air travel in Europe.

An Irish independent airline yesterday launched a bitter attack against the European Union for allowing the payment of further state aid to Aer Lingus, even though it is claimed that the Irish national airline has not met the conditions originally attached by Brussels to the aid package.

Ryanair, the independent Irish airline founded ten years ago by Tony Ryan, the CFA chief, and his two sons, yesterday said that it "objects vigorously to the European Commission derogating from its own decision of December 21, 1993".

"Brussels this week decided to go back on an earlier decision and authorise the Irish

Government to pay a second tranche of support, worth Ir£50 million, to Aer Lingus. Ryanair said that it had been profitable in the past four years in spite of having to compete with a state airline that receives in aid almost as much as Ryanair's turnover. Ryanair also claims to have accounted for more than 95 per cent of the growth in air traffic between the Irish Republic and the UK from 1991 to 1994.

Ryanair says that Aer Lingus will receive during 1995 Ir£25 for every return passenger carried. "This subsidy is unjustified," it said. In 1993, the European Commission authorised the Irish Government to inject Ir£175 million of equity into Aer Lingus. It was intended that it be injected in three stages and it was intended to allow a two-year restructuring proposal to go ahead. The plan envisaged cost reductions of Ir£50 mil-

lion a year and involved the sale of non-core businesses.

However, the Commission said that the cost objectives had been achieved only by the airline, and not by the Aer Lingus business as a whole. The commissioners believe that failure to meet the targets was caused by factors that could not be predicted when the restructuring plan was made.

The commissioners cited as examples the continued losses of Team, the aircraft maintenance arm, higher than expected restructuring costs and postponement of the disposal of Cophorne, the airline's chain of hotels.

The Commission said that it "is of the opinion that the progress of the restructuring and the results already achieved are satisfactory, despite the fact that the objective of the annual cost reduction has only been achieved by the airline and not by the whole group".

Northumbrian wins £250m deal

By ERIC REGULY

NORTHUMBRIAN Water has won a £250 million, 25-year waste-disposal contract, one of the largest waste deals ever awarded in Britain, from Cleveland County Council after a three-year tender process.

A new company, Cleveland Waste Management, which is 80 per cent owned by Northumbrian and 20 per cent by the council, will build a £40 million waste-to-energy plant in Billingham, Cleveland. The plant will burn about two-thirds of the 310,000 tonnes a year of waste generated by the local population.

The council will pay CWM, whose chief executive is David Cranston, to dispose of the waste and it will receive income from the energy produced by the plant.

CWM has a 15-year contract to supply up to 20 megawatts of electricity, enough to light up a small town, to Northern Electric. About half of the £250 million will come from waste disposal activities, the other half from electricity sales.

Jonathan Garvey, head of



Cranston: new company

Warning hits Scott Pickford

By JON ASHWORTH

SHARES in Scott Pickford, the oil services group, lost a quarter of their value yesterday, when the company issued a profits warning and announced sweeping boardroom changes.

The company gave warning that pre-tax profits in the second half would fall below the £320,500 recorded in the first half of the year because of poor sales of geoscience reports and resulting provisions of £115,000. The shares fell 10p, to 30p.

Tony Burch is to split his combined role of chairman and chief executive. Michael Reiden, a non-executive director, takes over as acting chairman until a more permanent successor is found. Mr Burch remains chief executive. Tony Phipps has resigned as a director. Allan Manning and Andrew Shragar have been appointed non-executive directors. Mr Reiden said that a new board structure had been considered "appropriate".

The company's two divisions focus on petroleum and measuring equipment.

MPs want to remove pitfall from tenants

By OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

A BILL to save former leaseholders from remaining liable for the debts that subsequent tenants owe, a landlord won backing from the House of Commons yesterday.

The legal situation has created problems for many years, but they became more acute during the 1990s recession. Expanding companies that had felt confident enough about their prospects to move in new and more suitable premises suddenly found themselves facing huge debts because the new tenants of their old premises had gone bust. Many small company directors had been unaware of the risks they faced from reassigning their leases until the landlord sent in the de-

mand for payment and followed it up with legal action.

The Government gave its support to a redefining of the landlord/tenant relationship in commercial contracts through the Landlord and Tenant (Covenants) Bill. The Bill was introduced by Peter Thurnham, Conservative MP for Bolton North-East.

The Bill gained its third reading without a vote and now goes to the Lords, where further changes are due to be made.

The Bill ends the "privity of contract" between a landlord and the original leaseholder whereby a landlord can hold former leaseholders responsible for the debts of a subsequent one.

Paul Boateng, for Labour, said that the Bill would end

an injustice. "There will be generations of people who will benefit from this measure," he said.

John Taylor, Minister in the Lord Chancellor's Department, said that the strengthening of the tenant's position was being balanced by a greater say for landlords on the assignment of leases from one tenant to another.

He said: "One has to say that in this case, with a certain note of sadness... there have been people, particularly during a period of recession and financial hardship, who have been hit very hard by the operation of the privity rule — some of them even losing their own homes."

Mr Thurnham said that further amendments would be introduced in the Lords.



Patrick Austen reported almost doubled profits for the retailing businesses

Liberty profits rise 28%

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

A STRONG performance from the retail division helped Liberty boost profits 28 per cent last year.

The retail businesses virtually doubled profits. Trading at the flagship Regent Street store and the new Liberty outlet at Heathrow were especially strong.

Patrick Austen, chief executive, said the group plans to open three Liberty branches this year, bringing the total chain to 26. The new stores will concentrate on fashion accessories and gifts rather than fabrics and furnishings. Other smaller stores will be converted to the new format. The group also plans to open three Muji stores.

The solid performance from the retail side was partly offset by deepening losses at the textile division.

Group pre-tax profits rose to £4.1 million (£3.2 million) in the year to January 28. The bottom line benefited from a £547,000 exceptional gain. The final dividend stays at 5.35p, making an unchanged total of 7.20p.

Tempus, page 24

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Shares end week on a high note

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

| 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031 | 2032 | 2033 | 2034 | 2035 | 2036 | 2037 | 2038 | 2039 | 2040 | 2041 | 2042 | 2043 | 2044 | 2045 | 2046 | 2047 | 2048 | 2049 | 2050 | 2051 | 2052 | 2053 | 2054 | 2055 | 2056 | 2057 | 2058 | 2059 | 2060 | 2061 | 2062 | 2063 | 2064 | 2065 | 2066 | 2067 | 2068 | 2069 | 2070 | 2071 | 2072 | 2073 | 2074 | 2075 | 2076 | 2077 | 2078 | 2079 | 2080 | 2081 | 2082 | 2083 | 2084 | 2085 | 2086 | 2087 | 2088 | 2089 | 2090 | 2091 | 2092 | 2093 | 2094 | 2095 | 2096 | 2097 | 2098 | 2099 | 2100 | 2101 | 2102 | 2103 | 2104 | 2105 | 2106 | 2107 | 2108 | 2109 | 2110 | 2111 | 2112 | 2113 | 2114 | 2115 | 2116 | 2117 | 2118 | 2119 | 2120 | 2121 | 2122 | 2123 | 2124 | 2125 | 2126 | 2127 | 2128 | 2129 | 2130 | 2131 | 2132 | 2133 | 2134 | 2135 | 2136 | 2137 | 2138 | 2139 | 2140 | 2141 | 2142 | 2143 | 2144 | 2145 | 2146 | 2147 | 2148 | 2149 | 2150 | 2151 | 2152 | 2153 | 2154 | 2155 | 2156 | 2157 | 2158 | 2159 | 2160 | 2161 | 2162 | 2163 | 2164 | 2165 | 2166 | 2167 | 2168 | 2169 | 2170 | 2171 | 2172 | 2173 | 2174 | 2175 | 2176 | 2177 | 2178 | 2179 | 2180 | 2181 | 2182 | 2183 | 2184 | 2185 | 2186 | 2187 | 2188 | 2189 | 2190 | 2191 | 2192 | 2193 | 2194 | 2195 | 2196 | 2197 | 2198 | 2199 | 2200 | 2201 | 2202 | 2203 | 2204 | 2205 | 2206 | 2207 | 2208 | 2209 | 2210 | 2211 | 2212 | 2213 | 2214 | 2215 | 2216 | 2217 | 2218 | 2219 | 2220 | 2221 | 2222 | 2223 | 2224 | 2225 | 2226 | 2227 | 2228 | 2229 | 2230 | 2231 | 2232 | 2233 | 2234 | 2235 | 2236 | 2237 | 2238 | 2239 | 2240 | 2241 | 2242 | 2243 | 2244 | 2245 | 2246 | 2247 | 2248 | 2249 | 2250 | 2251 | 2252 | 2253 | 2254 | 2255 | 2256 | 2257 | 2258 | 2259 | 2260 | 2261 | 2262 | 2263 | 2264 | 2265 | 2266 | 2267 | 2268 | 2269 | 2270 | 2271 | 2272 | 2273 | 2274 | 2275 | 2276 | 2277 | 2278 | 2279 | 2280 | 2281 | 2282 | 2283 | 2284 | 2285 | 2286 | 2287 | 2288 | 2289 | 2290 | 2291 | 2292 | 2293 | 2294 | 2295 | 2296 | 2297 | 2298 | 2299 | 2300 | 2301 | 2302 | 2303 | 2304 | 2305 | 2306 | 2307 | 2308 | 2309 | 2310 | 2311 | 2312 | 2313 | 2314 | 2315 | 2316 | 2317 | 2318 | 2319 | 2320 | 2321 | 2322 | 2323 | 2324 | 2325 | 2326 | 2327 | 2328 | 2329 | 2330 | 2331 | 2332 | 2333 | 2334 | 2335 | 2336 | 2337 | 2338 | 2339 | 2340 | 2341 | 2342 | 2343 | 2344 | 2345 | 2346 | 2347 | 2348 | 2349 | 2350 | 2351 | 2352 | 2353 | 2354 | 2355 | 2356 | 2357 | 2358 | 2359 | 2360 | 2361 | 2362 | 2363 | 2364 | 2365 | 2366 | 2367 | 2368 | 2369 | 2370 | 2371 | 2372 | 2373 | 2374 | 2375 | 2376 | 2377 | 2378 | 2379 | 2380 | 2381 | 2382 | 2383 | 2384 | 2385 | 2386 | 2387 | 2388 | 2389 | 2390 | 2391 | 2392 | 2393 | 2394 | 2395 | 2396 | 2397 | 2398 | 2399 | 2400 | 2401 | 2402 | 2403 | 2404 | 2405 | 2406 | 2407 | 2408 | 2409 | 2410 | 2411 | 2412 | 2413 | 2414 | 2415 | 2416 | 2417 | 2418 | 2419 | 2420 | 2421 | 2422 | 2423 | 2424 | 2425 | 2426 | 2427 | 2428 | 2429 | 2430 | 2431 | 2432 | 2433 | 2434 | 2435 | 2436 | 2437 | 2438 | 2439 | 2440 | 2441 | 2442 | 2443 | 2444 | 2445 | 2446 | 2447 | 2448 | 2449 | 2450 | 2451 | 2452 | 2453 | 2454 | 2455 | 2456 | 2457 | 2458 | 2459 | 2460 | 2461 | 2462 | 2463 | 2464 | 2465 | 2466 | 2467 | 2468 | 2469 | 2470 | 2471 | 2472 | 2473 | 2474 | 2475 | 2476 | 2477 | 2478 | 2479 | 2480 | 2481 | 2482 | 2483 | 2484 | 2485 | 2486 | 2487 | 2488 | 2489 | 2490 | 2491 | 2492 | 2493 | 2494 | 2495 | 2496 | 2497 | 2498 | 2499 | 2500 | 2501 | 2502 | 2503 | 2504 | 2505 | 2506 | 2507 | 2508 | 2509 | 2510 | 2511 | 2512 | 2513 | 2514 | 2515 | 2516 | 2517 | 2518 | 2519 | 2520 | 2521 | 2522 | 2523 | 2524 | 2525 | 2526 | 2527 | 2528 | 2529 | 2530 | 2531 | 2532 | 2533 | 2534 | 2535 | 2536 | 2537 | 2538 | 2539 | 2540 | 2541 | 2542 | 2543 | 2544 | 2545 | 2546 | 2547 | 2548 | 2549 | 2550 | 2551 | 2552 | 2553 | 2554 | 2555 | 2556 | 2557 | 2558 | 2559 | 2560 | 2561 | 2562 | 2563 | 2564 | 2565 | 2566 | 2567 | 2568 | 2569 | 2570 | 2571 | 2572 | 2573 | 2574 | 2575 | 2576 | 2577 | 2578 | 2579 | 2580 | 2581 | 2582 | 2583 | 2584 | 2585 | 2586 | 2587 | 2588 | 2589 | 2590 | 2591 | 2592 | 2593 | 2594 | 2595 | 2596 | 2597 | 2598 | 2599 | 2600 | 2601 | 2602 | 2603 | 2604 | 2605 | 2606 | 2607 | 2608 | 2609 | 2610 | 2611 | 2612 | 2613 | 2614 | 2615 | 2616 | 2617 | 2618 | 2619 | 2620 | 2621 | 2622 | 2623 | 2624 | 2625 | 2626 | 2627 | 2628 | 2629 | 2630 | 2631 | 2632 | 2633 | 2634 | 2635 | 2636 | 2637 | 2638 | 2639 | 2640 | 2641 | 2642 | 2643 | 2644 | 2645 | 2646 | 2647 | 2648 | 2649 | 2650 | 2651 | 2652 | 2653 | 2654 | 2655 | 2656 | 2657 | 2658 | 2659 | 2660 | 2661 | 2662 | 2663 | 2664 | 2665 | 2666 | 2667 | 2668 | 2669 | 2670 | 2671 | 2672 | 2673 | 2674 | 2675 | 2676 | 2677 | 2678 | 2679 | 2680 | 2681 | 2682 | 2683 | 2684 | 2685 | 2686 | 2687 | 2688 | 2689 | 2690 | 2691 | 2692 | 2693 | 2694 | 2695 | 2696 | 2697 | 2698 | 2699 | 2700 | 2701 | 2702 | 2703 | 2704 | 2705 | 2706 | 2707 | 2708 | 2709 | 2710 | 2711 | 2712 | 2713 | 2714 | 2715 | 2716 | 2717 | 2718 | 2719 | 2720 | 2721 | 2722 | 2723 | 2724 | 2725 | 2726 | 2727 | 2728 | 2729 | 2730 | 2731 | 2732 | 2733 | 2734 | 2735 | 2736 | 2737 | 2738 | 2739 | 2740 | 2741 | 2742 | 2743 | 2744 | 2745 | 2746 | 2747 | 2748 | 2749 | 2750 | 2751 | 2752 | 2753 | 2754 | 2755 | 2756 | 2757 | 2758 | 2759 | 2760 | 2761 | 2762 | 2763 | 2764 | 2765 | 2766 | 2767 | 2768 | 2769 | 2770 | 2771 | 2772 | 2773 | 2774 | 2775 | 2776 | 2777 | 2778 | 2779 | 2780 | 2781 | 2782 | 2783 | 2784 | 2785 | 2786 | 2787 | 2788 | 2789 | 2790 | 2791 | 2792 | 2793 | 2794 | 2795 | 2796 | 2797 | 2798 | 2799 | 2800 | 2801 | 2802 | 2803 | 2804 | 2805 | 2806 | 2807 | 2808 | 2809 | 2810 | 2811 | 2812 | 2813 | 2814 | 2815 | 2816 | 2817 | 2818 | 2819 | 2820 | 2821 | 2822 | 2823 | 2824 | 2825 | 2826 | 2827 | 2828 | 2829 | 2830 | 2831 | 2832 | 2833 | 2834 | 2835 | 2836 | 2837 | 2838 | 2839 | 2840 | 2841 | 2842 | 2843 | 2844 | 2845 | 2846 | 2847 | 2848 | 2849 | 2850 | 2851 | 2852 | 2853 | 2854 | 2855 | 2856 | 2857 | 2858 | 2859 | 2860 | 2861 | 2862 | 2863 | 2864 | 2865 | 2866 | 2867 | 2868 | 2869 | 2870 | 2871 | 2872 | 2873 | 2874 | 2875 | 2876 | 2877 | 2878 | 2879 | 2880 | 2881 | 2882 | 2883 | 2884 | 2885 | 2886 | 2887 | 2888 | 2889 | 2890 | 2891 | 2892 | 2893 | 2894 | 2895 | 2896 | 2897 | 2898 | 2899 | 2900 | 2901 | 2902 | 2903 | 2904 | 2905 | 2906 | 2907 | 2908 | 2909 | 2910 | 2911 | 2912 | 2913 | 2914 | 2915 | 2916 | 2917 | 2918 | 2919 | 2920 | 2921 | 2922 | 2923 | 2924 | 2925 | 2926 | 2927 | 2928 | 2929 | 2930 | 2931 | 2932 | 2933 | 2934 | 2935 | 2936 | 2937 | 2938 | 2939 | 2940 | 2941 | 2942 | 2943 | 2944 | 2945 | 2946 | 2947 | 2948 | 2949 | 2950 | 2951 | 2952 | 2953 | 2954 | 2955 | 2956 | 2957 | 2958 | 2959 | 2960 | 2961 | 2962 | 2963 | 2964 | 2965 | 2966 | 2967 | 2968 | 2969 | 2970 | 2971 | 2972 | 2973 | 2974 | 2975 | 2976 | 2977 | 2978 | 2979 | 2980 | 2981 | 2982 | 2983 | 2984 | 2985 | 2986 | 2987 | 2988 | 2989 | 2990 | 2991 | 2992 | 2993 | 2994 | 2995 | 2996 | 2997 | 2998 | 2999 | 3000 | 3001 | 3002 | 3003 | 3004 | 3005 | 3006 | 3007 | 3008 | 3009 | 3010 | 3011 | 3012 | 3013 | 3014 | 3015 | 3016 | 3017 | 3018 | 3019 | 3020 | 3021 | 3022 | 3023 | 3024 | 3025 | 3026 | 3027 | 3028 | 3029 | 3030 | 3031 | 3032 | 3033 | 3034 | 3035 | 3036 | 3037 | 3038 | 3039 | 3040 | 3041 | 3042 | 3043 | 3044 | 3045 | 3046 | 3047 | 3048 | 3049 | 3050 | 3051 | 3052 | 3053 | 3054 | 3055 | 3056 | 3057 | 3058 | 3059 | 3060 | 3061 | 3062 | 3063 | 3064 | 3065 | 3066 | 3067 | 3068 | 3069 | 3070 | 3071 | 3072 | 3073 | 3074 | 3075 | 3076 | 3077 | 3078 | 3079 | 3080 | 3081 | 3082 | 3083 | 3084 | 3085 | 3086 | 3087 | 3088 | 3089 | 3090 | 3091 | 3092 | 3093 | 3094 | 3095 | 3096 | 3097 | 3098 | 3099 | 3100 | 3101 | 3102 | 3103 | 3104 | 3105 | 3106 | 3107 | 3108 | 3109 | 3110 | 3111 | 3112 | 3113 | 3114 | 3115 | 3116 | 3117 | 3118 | 3119 | 3120 | 3121 | 3122 | 3123 | 3124 | 3125 | 3126 | 3127 | 3128 | 3129 | 3130 | 3131 | 3132 | 3133 | 3134 | 3135 | 3136 | 3137 | 3138 | 3139 | 3140 | 3141 | 3142 | 3143 | 3144 | 3145 | 3146 | 3147 | 3148 | 3149 | 3150 | 3151 | 3152 | 3153 | 3154 | 3155 | 3156 | 3157 | 3158 | 3159 | 3160 | 3161 | 3162 | 3163 | 3164 | 3165 | 3166 | 3167 | 3168 | 3169 | 3170 | 3171 | 3172 | 3173 | 3174 | 3175 | 3176 | 3177 | 3178 | 3179 | 3180 | 3181 | 3182 | 3183 | 3184 | 3185 | 3186 | 3187 | 3188 | 3189 | 3190 | 3191 | 3192 | 3193 | 3194 | 3195 | 3196 | 3197 | 3198 | 3199 | 3200 | 3201 | 3202 | 3203 | 3204 | 3205 | 3206 | 3207 | 3208 | 3209 | 3210 | 3211 | 3212 | 3213 | 3214 | 3215 | 3216 | 3217 | 3218 | 3219 | 3220 | 3221 | 3222 | 3223 | 3224 | 3225 | 3226 | 3227 | 3228 | 3229 | 3230 | 3231 | 3232 | 3233 | 3234 | 3235 | 3236 | 3237 | 3238 | 3239 | 3240 | 3241 | 3242 | 3243 | 3244 | 3245 | 3246 | 3247 | 3248 | 3249 | 3250 | 3251 | 3252 | 3253 | 3254 | 3255 | 3256 | 3257 | 3258 | 3259 | 3260 | 3261 | 3262 | 3263 | 3264 | 3265 | 3266 | 3267 | 3268 | 3269 | 3270 | 3271 | 3272 | 3273 | 3274 | 3275 | 3276 | 3277 | 3278 | 3279 | 3280 | 3281 | 3282 | 3283 | 3284 | 3285 | 3286 | 3287 | 3288 | 3289 | 3290 | 3291 | 3292 | 3293 | 3294 | 3295 | 3296 | 3297 | 3298 | 3299 | 3300 | 3301 | 3302 | 3303 | 3304 | 3305 | 3306 | 3307 | 3308 | 3309 | 3310 | 3311 | 3312 | 3313 | 3314 | 3315 | 3316 | 3317 | 3318 | 3319 | 3320 | 3321 | 3322 | 3323 | 3324 | 3325 | 3326 | 3327 | 3328 | 3329 | 3330 | 3331 | 3332 | 3333 | 3334 | 3335 | 3336 | 3337 | 3338 | 3339 | 3340 |
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NEW LINE 28

Marks & Spencer sets out its pensions stall

WEEKEND MONEY

UNIT TRUSTS 33-36

A special report on how the funds have fared



Old-style banks held to account

As customer discontent with banks mounts, Abbey National is planning a revamp, Liz Dolan says

Are you one of the 20 per cent of current account holders who are dissatisfied with the way their accounts are administered? Would you be prepared to switch to another bank, if it made it worth your while?

Abbey National, which has plans to launch a major offensive on the current account market this summer, is fervently hoping that you are — and that you would.

Britain's fourth-largest high street bank commissioned the survey that came up with the one-in-five dissatisfaction rating earlier this year. It says it is making heavy use of the findings to create a new look account, due to be launched within the next six weeks.

This will replace its two existing current accounts, one paying a flat interest rate, the other tiered. A credit card and a full 24-hour telephone banking network are planned later this year.

The most common complaints recorded by the survey, which was conducted by BRMB, the market research group, concerned unreasonable charges and pitifully small interest payments on credit balances.

The old saying that more married people are likely to divorce than change their bank account apparently still

holds good. Almost three in four disgruntled customers had actively considered switching to another bank. More than half had made inquiries about alternatives, but very few had bothered actually to move. Inconvenience, general inertia and a "negative attitude towards traditional banking" were cited as the three main reasons.

It is not clear what the researchers meant by "traditional banking". But it is certainly true that disaffected customers who do move tend to be younger than the average account holder, and are increasingly attracted by novelty.

Take First Direct's mould-breaking telephone banking operation, which scored an instant success when it started five years ago. An off-the-wall advertising campaign, plus cheque books, cardholders and so on, in a black quite matt enough to suit the most dedicated style victim, sent a coded message to waverers that this was the place to be for the young and trendy.

Since then, every self-respecting bank has followed suit with some kind of direct line service. The Royal Bank of Scotland's me-too service, for instance, which celebrated its first birthday on Tuesday of this week, has attracted more than 335,000 customers. But few have quite managed to

match the style of the initiator. The Co-operative Bank has pulled off what is arguably an even greater marketing coup after last year's successful revamp of its services. Although still a small player in the high street, with 3 per cent of the market, its new account-signings are running at twice the level of a year ago.

Its tired old image as banker to the down-at-heel and unfashionable is fading fast, thanks to its well publicised ethical-banking stance which, as well as appealing strongly to students and young radicals, has, at the same time, apparently beefed up its attractions for wealthier, more mature customers.

"We're now well known as the ethical bank," the Co-op says. "We make it very clear who we will do business with, and who we won't. We don't get into a debate. We just say: this is what we stand for."

The Halifax launched its Maxima current account at the same time as First Direct came on the scene. Five years later, it has nearly one million customers, more and more of whom apparently have their salaries paid into their accounts, rather than simply using them as savings accounts with cheque books. A recent MORI survey found that 93 per cent of its current account holders were "very happy" with the service they received.



Customers of Harrods Bank have the advantage of being able to visit it whenever the store is open

Happiness is banking at Harrods

Harrods Bank is patting itself on the back this week. A recent survey has discovered that virtually every single member of its small, but select, band of customers is either "fairly" or "very" satisfied with the service they receive.

A cynic would protest that they deserve to be very satisfied indeed, given the hefty charges they are expected to cough up for the pleasure of banking with the top people's store.

Anyone who dares to allow their balance to slip below £1,000 for a single day has to pay a minimum monthly service charge of £10. No interest at all is paid on balances below £2,500. Above that amount, interest ranges from 3 per cent to 5 per cent, but the top rate is paid only on balances of £50,000 or above.

The charges are pitched to attract the right type of customer, explains John Simmonds, general manager. "If we offered free banking to anyone in credit, we'd attract masses of customers and we'd no longer be able to offer a personal service."

Maintaining the minimum balance effectively costs about £30 to £40 a year in lost interest, he says. In return for this, customers get a high degree of personal service and the advantage of being able to visit the bank whenever the store is open, seven days a week in December. According to the survey, these were the two main reasons for choosing Harrods rather than a local high street bank.

Harrods account-holders tend to be older than the average bank customer, and have income of at least £25,000 a year. Most shop at the store, and many are second or third-generation customers.

The Harrods Card guarantees cheques up to £250 and may be used to withdraw cash from Visa and Delta dispensers worldwide. It is also a debit card.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Transfers with minimum hassle

A letter from the bank informs you that you are £3.50 overdrawn, even though your salary cheque is due to be paid in the next day. It is the final straw, and you decide that now is the time to find a bank more worthy of your custom. (Liz Dolan writes.)

But then you remember the long list of direct debits and standing orders attached to your account, and the equally long list of companies that will have to be alerted to your new payment arrangements.

You also remember what a hassle it was when your debit/cash/cheque card was stolen and you had to carry around great piles of cash until its replacement arrived. You decide it is not worth the effort, pour a stiff drink and make peace with your existing bank.

Nowadays most banks try to make the switching process as

easy as possible by, for example, offering "transfer packs". But their efforts to publicise this fact seem to have been less than successful.

Only two in five people interviewed, in an Abbey National survey expected rival banks to make any effort at all to help them to transfer. The more dissatisfied those questioned were with their existing bank, the less faith they appeared to have in the ability of a new one to smooth out the hassles.

In an effort to allay people's concern about problems when moving banks, some offer to pay for their mistakes.

The Midland Bank has touted for business more actively than most by publicising widely its offer to pay £10 per delay, or mistake, to new customers, and people switching from competitors. The bank says: "We ask for three signatures and that's it. We transfer all the direct debits and standing

orders for you and we promise to supply you with a cheque book, PIN and cheque card within five to seven days." Since launching its £10 self-financing policy in July, the bank has paid out £30,000. The offer operates only during the first month of the new account, however.

The Co-op points out that while it also pays £10 per mistake, it does so throughout the life of the account. On switching, it says: "There's this big inertia thing, but it's not that difficult to transfer. You simply fill in a form and we approach your existing current account holder."

At Lloyds, new customers are allocated a member of staff who is responsible for everything from answering queries to arranging for the delivery of new cheque books and cards and the transfer of standard orders. New customers are also

supplied with pre-written letters to ease the transfer process and telephoned after ten days and six months to see if they have problems. "We also ask them if they want to change anything at the six month stage," it says.

Barclays offers the following tips:

- Draw up a list of all standing orders and direct debits
- On your first visit to your new bank, take bank and credit card statements going back six months, your last two pay slips, and identification, such as a driving licence, that shows your address.

- Do not close your old account before opening a new one. Allow time for uncleared cheques to go through the system.

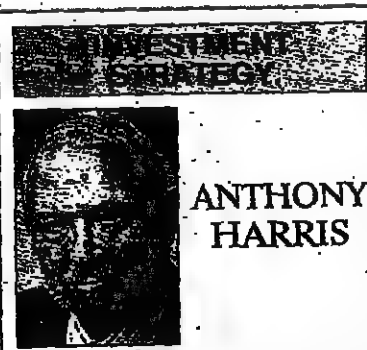
- Inform all companies involved that there may be a slight delay in payment because of the transfer.

If you can keep your head...

Did you have a queasy Wednesday? If you paid attention to the news, you probably did. The dollar and sterling were touching record lows; pundit after pundit made grim remarks, usually including the words "putting their house in order". At worst, we were facing a full-blown currency crisis: at the very least, interest rates would have to rise again, in spite of the now obvious slowdown. Either way, investment looked much riskier; prices duly fell. But on Thursday, it all went away, and a price recovery set in. Thank goodness you didn't panic.

And the moral of that is not, as you might think, that you should pay no attention to the news: it is that you should never listen to pundits. The alert investor should not have found Wednesday's instalment unduly exciting. The dollar, after all, has been falling throughout 1995, regularly breaking records all the way down. So Wednesday was just another bad day. Indeed, in a deeper sense, the crisis is a quarter of a century old: it started when Nixon went off gold in 1971.

So we have been watching a major adjustment: Wednesday was just another bad day. The question is not whether the dollar is undervalued (it has been for several years), but when the adjustment is likely to be complete. Or rather, when the overshoot will have spent its force. As any experienced investor knows, such major trends always go too far; that is the nature of speculative markets. One day a recovery



ANTHONY HARRIS

such as we have seen this week will surprise everyone by gathering force rather than petering out; but the bounce, like the fall, will be overdone.

One possibly hopeful sign is that the Swedes have joined the central bank panic, which is the real cause of the current crisis, and started switching their reserves out of dollars. The Swedes are becoming notorious for their bad timing, and you should never overlook the value of such negative indicators.

All the same, my own guess is that we have not yet reached the turning point. But that is only a guess; and so are all the supposedly better-informed forecasts you hear from pundits. When a really smart speculator like George Soros can lose the thick end of a billion dollars backing the dollar much too early, the rest of us should be humble. Pundits, however, are not paid to be humble. A dealer who told an interview-

er "I really haven't the foggiest idea" could be sure that he would not be bothered again. What news editors want is a clear pointer, preferably to the imminent end of the world.

The trouble is that those willing to oblige let all the attention they enjoy go to their heads: hence their ill-informed and impertinent lectures to governments on what they should do. What they ignore is the fact that the trouble is not with policy, but with the system. Any system in which national reserves are held mainly in the currency of one country will face a major crisis every generation or so. For a period, it is a privilege to be the reserve provider: the role confers almost indefinite borrowing power.

But in the end, it is a poisoned chalice; it makes a country fat and lazy. America has not chosen to be a country in eternal deficit: the deficit, and the over-valuation that caused it, have been forced on it by the demand for dollars from other countries. That is why Germany and Japan have been so reluctant to take on a role that has been on offer for more than 20 years. The devaluation that will make it possible for the US to become a surplus country has taken only months; but the structural change will take a generation. But in the continuing crisis, hang on to this thought: equities are a stake in real value and, in the long run, shrug off exchange-rate turmoil.

Only bond holders need worry: leave bonds to the risk-takers.

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Sara McConnell finds life assurance and pensions on sale not far from the food hall

M&S offers policy of simplicity

Life assurance salesmen have never been so unpopular — at least with customers of Marks & Spencer. M&S is to branch out into selling life and pensions policies in two weeks' time but customer research gave a decisive thumbs down to the company's original plans to recruit a salaried salesforce.

Customers, many drawn from M&S's 4.5 million store card account holders, told researchers they wanted simple policies which they could understand on their own. Fear of being pressurised by a hard-sell life assurance salesman by the shelves in the food hall ran deep.

So from May 10, brochures for M&S's five new life assurance and pension policies will appear in all 285 UK stores. If you already have a store card, loan or investment with M&S Financial Services, you may find a mailshot for policies from M&S Life Assurance included with your next statement or communication. There will also be a freephone number for "technical queries". But M&S is adamant that its staff cannot at the moment cross the thin dividing line between giving factual help (on charges for example) and advice.

M&S believes it has made its plans so simple that customers will not need help. But pressed on the issue that life assurance and pensions were more complex than credit cards or even unit trusts, David Towell, the chief executive of the new company, conceded it might have to recruit a team of advisers later. The advisers would be based at M&S Financial Services' headquarters in Chester, not in stores. Customers with pensions are perhaps the most likely to need advice, especially when they near retirement. As the company is targeting its pensions at those between 30 and 55, some customers may need advice in five years' time.

With no salesmen to pay, at least at the outset, M&S life and pension plans should be cheaper than those of their competitors who make deductions for salesmen's commission. Robert Colvill, managing director of M&S Financial Services, also emphasised that the



First, Linda Evangelista models its styles. Now, M&S goes into pensions

simpler policies were, the cheaper this would make them.

It is certainly true that customers will benefit by having all their contributions or premiums invested in a savings plan or pension from the outset. Many of M&S's rivals take some or all of each contribution to pay set-up costs, including commission, for

up to the first two years of the policy. But M&S levies other charges that are not startlingly lower than many of their competitors, according to Nigel O'Sullivan of Bacon & Woodrow, the actuary. Both the savings plan and the two pension plans are unit-linked, so contributions are invested in units linked to the stock market. There is an

initial charge of 5 per cent deducted from each contribution which includes the cost of buying units and an administration charge. (Most companies charge between 5 per cent and 10 per cent.) On top of this, there is an annual management charge of 0.75 per cent taken from the performance of your investment. (Most companies charge between 0.75 per cent and 1.5 per cent.) M&S also charges a monthly fixed policy fee of £1.20 if you are making regular contributions. Such fixed fees weigh heaviest on those investing small amounts. Many companies have got rid of them altogether.

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■ **Savings and protection plan:** A ten-year savings plan extendable to 20 years. Contributions will be invested in a new fund, the UK Balanced Equity Fund, managed by BZW. You will get a guaranteed sum or the value of the fund if greater if you die or are diagnosed with a serious illness.

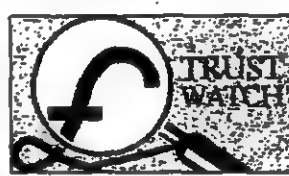
■ **Personal pension:** Contributions will be invested in one of three funds, the International Managed fund (managed by a range of outside fund managers), the UK Balanced fund and the Fixed Interest Pension fund (for when you are five years or fewer from retirement) managed by Phillips & Drew.

■ **Freestanding AVC:** A top-up plan for members of company pension schemes structured like the personal pension.

Fund managers tune in to Luxembourg

In the past decade, Luxembourg has moved from being the Duchy better known for its radio station to a major offshore base for fund managers. With about £100 billion of money invested through Luxembourg-registered funds, it can rival the UK's unit trust industry, which has been going since 1932.

A number of top British fund management houses, including Commercial Union, Fidelity, Henderson, Hypo Foreign & Colonial and Kleinwort Benson have Luxembourg offices. Another



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group, Invesco, is to add a seventeenth fund to its Premier Selection umbrella fund on May 1.

Luxembourg is a "recognised" territory by Britain's chief regulator, the Securities and Investments Board. But funds registered there must apply for separate permission

to market themselves direct to investors in the UK. Using the Duchy as a springboard to launch funds means it is easier to promote them to a wider investment audience. Alan Wren, managing director of Invesco, says the new Asian Convertible bond fund will be promoted in 37 countries.

The new Invesco fund, which has a minimum investment of \$1,000, or \$100 a month, has a gross target yield of 6.75 per cent, with "the prospect of significant capital growth" from a portfolio of Euro-convertible bonds issued

by companies in the region, excluding Japan. Favourable sectors will include property, infrastructure, energy, and electronics in countries such as India, China and Korea.

The Invesco fund will offer a choice of distribution or roll-up units so that UK investors can decide when to repatriate their money. If they are higher rate taxpayers nearing retirement, the money can be left to roll-up until they retire and move to a lower tax band. Invesco: 0800 010333.

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Confessing their sins in public

The news that companies that break the rules of the PIA watchdog body may be forced to display their sins in full-page newspaper advertisements is the second blow struck this week for investors' rights.

For too long, financial services businesses have been able to conceal the exact nature of their transgressions, while at the same time swearing that any shortcoming has long since been put right.

The smile produced by the thought of life insurers and the like facing such public embarrassment is made even wider by the week's first sally in the investor rights struggle. In a development that is a victory for a campaign by *The Times*, the 20,000 investors of Knight Williams, the advisory business, can now contemplate the future with a greater measure of security, after the deal with Singer & Friedlander, the merchant bank.

The group's purchase of Knight Williams's asset management division follows months of evasion by the firm's directors and prevarication by the various watchdog bodies involved in the case.

Without the insistence of



ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance
Editor

the press and the assiduous efforts of the Knight Williams action group, one suspects that they might still be deliberating, while elderly investors stood by, unable to mend their fortunes, or influence their fates.

When the chief watchdog, the Securities and Investments Board, was finally forced to become involved, investors' patience was already close to exhausted and their capital diminished. Their faith in the investor protection system was already shaken: Knight Williams, a supposedly independent adviser, had, in many cases, placed all their cash in its own bonds and trusts, rather than distributing the money among various suitable homes.

The whole messy affair highlights various deficiencies within the regulatory

system that the bosses of these bodies should see as a cautionary tale.

The only disappointment is that we did not see, displayed in broadsheet, the details of the £50,000 fine imposed last year on Knight Williams. Or the fine print of the ten rule breaches.

Credit goes PC

ONCE upon a time, credit cards had no pretensions to social responsibility. The flexible friend was designed to make spending as effortless as possible and take the "waiting out of wanting". But, for hundreds of thousands, the relationship with their little plastic pal turned sour as they saw their debts rise and felt the pain that an APR in the high twenties can bring. They are now part of a sizeable group that looks

askance at card companies and deeply disapproves of all their works.

Dismayed by this disaffection, two of the industry's giants, American Express and Barclaycard, have decided that politically correct cards are the answer.

These new cards claim to be about as innocuous as a library ticket and equally worthy. For example, Sense is the name given to the latest member of the Barclaycard clan. A decade ago, no self-respecting card would have such a label displayed across its chest. Closer examination, however, reveals the cards are not as harmless as they would like to appear. Sense is aimed at a more downmarket type of customer, presumed to be less creditworthy and thus forced to pay a higher rate of interest. In spite of spending restrictions, the rate is still 21.6 per cent, about 6 per cent higher than cards targeted at the more favoured type of customer.

For the first fee-free year, provided they spend more than £1,000, holders of the new American Express card will enjoy a rate of 16.7 per cent. But, thereafter, the rate climbs to 20.3 per cent, or 24.5 per cent for low spenders.

Hunt is on for victims of pension mis-selling

Robert Miller
on the PIA's
guidelines for
compensating
investors

The task of identifying and compensating hundreds of thousands of investors who may have been mis-sold personal pensions began in earnest this week when the watchdog responsible for policing life companies published formal guidelines on how the review is to be conducted.

For investors who are worried, the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the regulator for firms that sell investments direct to the public, has set up a helpline.

The process will begin when pension companies send out a "Review of Personal Pensions" letter, with a questionnaire and a pre-paid envelope. The letter states: "Some people may have been badly advised to leave or not join an employer's pension scheme, and to take out a personal pension plan instead. Where that advice did not meet the relevant standards and has resulted in loss to the customer, compensation may be due."

The letter also points out that individual cases, where



Colette Bowe wants a quick response to requests for reviews

there appears to be a problem and which need further investigation, can only be expedited if the questionnaires are completed. It adds: "This is important for you even if you have now stopped your personal pension plan or you feel you received good advice."

There are priority cases, estimated to number 350,000, that the PIA says must be automatically reviewed by the end of next year. In addition, a further million personal pension plan holders may request a similar review.

The PIA has told pension providers that they must, by

the end of this year, have reviewed certain case categories deemed urgent or extremely urgent. There is a rolling timetable, which the PIA insists must be adhered to.

By the end of 1995: Those who have retired or died and people aged 35 or more at the time of the transaction and who are still in the same employment.

By mid-1996: Those who opted out of the company or occupational pension scheme when they were under 35 and who are still in the same job and contributing to a personal pension plan.

By the end of 1996: Those who opted out when they were 35 or more, but are no longer with the same employer.

The PIA emphasises that these are only broad headings. Colette Bowe, chief executive of the PIA, made clear this week that any personal pension plan holders who feel that they may have been wrongly advised to opt out of a company pension scheme or not join in the first place, may ask for a review. She is equally firm that companies requested to review a particular case should do so speedily, explaining at each stage of the process the rights of individuals to challenge a particular decision.

The specially established PIA Pensions Unit will monitor members taking part in the review process on a regular basis.

The most complex and controversial element of the personal pension review is inevitably compensation.

Where investors have been given bad advice, the PIA ideally wants them restored to their former pension scheme with no loss of benefits. If this proves to be very expensive, or impossible, the company may offer a suitable top-up payment to the investor's personal pension plan. However, each decision will have to be justified individually to the regulator.

PIA Investor Helpline: 0171-417 7001

MPs focus on widows' plight

The controversial topic of how to split pension assets on divorce is likely to dominate the Commons debate on the Pensions Bill, which begins on Monday.

Ministers are expected to come under further pressure to order that pensions be split on divorce, rather than at retirement, as required by an amendment to the Bill made by peers during its passage through the Lords.

However, leading pensions lawyers predict that the Government may try to argue that in Australia, Germany and The Netherlands, three countries which have, to date, confronted the problem of providing a pension for a middle-aged wife who has not pursued her own career, the answer is to give her a share of her husband's fund when he retires.

In spite of a number of concessions that are likely to be made to war widows, restoring their pensions if their second marriages end, there will be special lobbying for younger war widows who receive their pensions from the Ministry of Defence, not the Department of Social Security. These widows are not covered by the proposed concessions.

The Officers Pensions Society, which represents the interests of these women, argues that their pensions should be paid to them for life, regardless of whether they remarry.

The Bill, which appeared in its final form this week, has acquired 19 new clauses since the Budget. Ten of them, plus 70 other changes, appeared after standing committee sessions had finished and could not possibly have been examined properly.



Lennox fears loss of security

the financial security the pension brings.

There is also some concern about the failure of the Bill to address the subject of training for pension scheme trustees. Douglas French, the Conservative MP for Gloucester, may raise this in the debate on Monday.

Meanwhile, another piece of current legislation has come under criticism from a leading accountant, Maurice Parry-Wingfield, tax partner with Touche Ross, who maintains that the Government is creating a dangerous precedent by introducing a large amount of important new legislation in the Finance Bill at the last moment without allowing time for proper scrutiny.

The Bill, which appeared in its final form this week, has acquired 19 new clauses since the Budget. Ten of them, plus 70 other changes, appeared after standing committee sessions had finished and could not possibly have been examined properly.

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Cards offer credit without tears

Two new credit cards sport safety measures for those who rate plastic a peril, reports Morag Preston

If fear of credit or the woes of acquaintances who have fallen into debt mean that you do not yet have a flexible friend, a major credit card company would like to meet you.

To their delight, the credit card companies have discovered that there is space in 14.5 million wallets for a credit card. About 40 per cent of Britons have credit cards, as against 75 per cent of Americans. However, the card companies have also realised that one size will not fit all.

A new generation that is sceptical about the power of plastic and needs persuading that credit need not be harmful requires a special sort of credit card. To try to appeal to the hearts and pockets of this group, mainly composed of the young and spread throughout the social classes, American Express and Barclaycard have both launched new cards this week.

The new American Express card, aimed at the "financially responsible", is free in the first year, with an annual fee of £20 thereafter. Its annual percentage rate (APR) is 16.7 per cent, provided the holder spends at least £1,000 a year. If they do not, the rate is 20.9 per cent. After the first year, the fee is £20, against a market average of £10 to £12. American Express's offering is backed by a £6 billion television and press advertising campaign.

The Barclaycard no-frills Sense card is targeted at an estimated 7 million people who demand strict financial controls to stop them overspending and who have been wary of traditional credit cards. It offers fixed lower credit limits, with strict repayment terms. Cash withdrawals are limited.

Shaun Powell, commercial director at Barclaycard, says: "Those we have



Charlotte Baker uses one of the new credit cards for the cautious young

identified as a target market for Barclaycard Sense may not enter the credit card market at all unless their demands are met."

Barclaycard Sense requires a higher than average minimum monthly repayment of 10 per cent, encouraging cardholders to pay back more of their spending. It offers a reduced credit limit of between £300 and £500, to be decided by the customer, compared with the Barclaycard average of £1,500.

Cash withdrawals are limited to £50 a day. To satisfy its target group's demand for simplicity, the card does not offer additional benefits, such as purchase cover.

Rivals see Barclaycard as appealing desperately to a market that it would previously have spurned. Mark Christopher, marketing manager of Save & Prosper, which offers its own range of cards, says: "The Sense is a budget card aimed at the working class."

Barclaycard is moving down the socio-economic scale. The more credit-worthy top end of the market is saturated. American Express has moved downmarket in the hope that their new recruits will eventually upgrade to a charge card.

The arrival of new cards does not mean that credit card companies have entirely abandoned the attempt to attract the free-spending, Barclaycard Gold, which was launched last week and is available only by invitation to Barclaycard customers, is for credit card enthusiasts confident in managing their finances.

It offers a minimum credit limit of £2,500, well above the Barclaycard average of £750, and a further credit line of £5,000. Unlike most gold cards, there is no minimum annual income requirement. It undercuts the standard Barclaycard interest rate by 2 percentage points, with an APR of 20.9 per cent.

If you are one of the cardless millions who feels that life might be easier with a credit card, Save & Prosper offers the lowest monthly rate at 1 per cent. There is a £12 annual fee, and an APR of 14.6 per cent. "The majority of our cardholders are aged between 35 and 45. They are a better credit risk," says Mr Christopher. "We avoid younger customers and the self-employed."

Save & Prosper is the only company to stipulate that its credit card holders are homeowners. The Alliance & Leicester Atlantic Visa card offers the second lowest rates at a 1.38 per cent monthly rate, with a £10 annual fee, and an APR of 18.9 per cent.

For younger non-homeowners brave enough to become plastic empowered, there is Barclaycard, which charges a 1.65 per cent monthly rate (APR 22.9 per cent) with a £10 annual fee, and an APR of 22.9 per cent.

The NatWest Access offers an attractive 1.67 per cent monthly rate, with a £12 annual fee, and an APR of 23.4 per cent. Among the building societies, National & Provincial has a 1.53 per cent monthly rate, with no annual fee, and an APR of 19.9 per cent. The TSB Trustcard has a 1.67 per cent monthly rate, with no annual fee, and an APR of 21.9 per cent.

Winning ways to make charity cash go further

As the public now prefers a flutter on the lottery to putting their small change into charity boxes, charities are losing out and having to make their dwindling funds work harder. By shopping around and chubbing together with another branch of the same charity, they can get a higher interest rate.

Charities with big cash flows can negotiate their own deals with banks and building societies. But local charities and clubs with more limited resources should be able to find a suitable account at a local bank or building society.

Banks tend to offer more sophisticated accounts with added extras, such as cheque books, telephone banking and

specialist advisers, while building societies offer no-frills, instant-access accounts with higher rates of interest. Examples are the Ecology Building Society charity postal account, which pays a flat rate of 5.7 per cent gross on balances up to £50,000, and the Northern Rock Building Society, where the flat rate is 6.25 per cent gross.

The Leeds & Holbeck Building Society offers 5.8 per cent gross on balances of £100 or more, while at the Yorkshire Building Society charities can earn 6.5 per cent gross if they have £25,000 to invest. One alternative is the Charities Aid Foundation cash deposit fund, which gives money-market rates. The fund has £110 million of charitable savings.

Charities should check rates of interest to see whether they are tied and whether the account is suitable for a high or low number of transactions. Other details to note are the charges and whether the account offers instant access

without penalty. You should find out when interest starts to be added to cheques and cash paid into the account. Nationwide Building Society starts to pay interest on cash three working days after the deposit is made. Although cheques take seven days to clear, interest is paid from day three. Banks pay interest monthly or quarterly and societies annually or twice a year.

Midland, Barclays and

Lloyds make charges if more than ten withdrawals are made in a month, although the National Westminster Clubs and Societies Reserve account offers free banking for customers with a turnover of less than £25,000 a year. NatWest says this means 95 per cent of those using the account get free banking. Those with a larger turnover may use National Westminster's ActionLine telephone banking service, with

concessionary charges. Many building societies offer extra facilities. The Portman offers a cheque book on its Cheque Account for Treasurers. This has a rate of 5.2 per cent on £30,000 plus, free standing orders, direct debits, and a monthly statement. The instant-access Girobank charity account offers a bank card and cheque book and can be operated by post or telephone.

KAREN MURRAY

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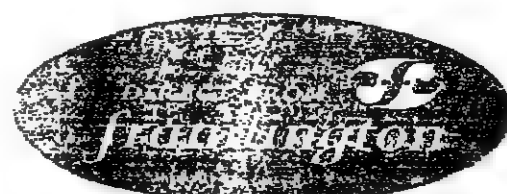
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Robert Miller casts a slide-rule over the performance of the 84 unit trusts launched in the UK during 1994

How newcomer trusts fared on the back of turbulent world markets



Chance and skill come into play when deciding which new unit trust to select

Picking a winner from a host of new unit trusts is almost as much a game of chance as it is of skill. Ask anyone who backed one of 1994's crop of 84 newcomers.

Allowing for a period of grace and, therefore, measuring their performance from the start of January this year to the beginning of April, only three of last year's unit trust launches are showing a profit. Even then, the return was less than £3 for every £100 invested. A closer analysis of the figures, provided specially by Microcap, shows that of the 84 new launches in 1994, only 14 made any return at all for investors. Profits were generally in the range of £1 to £2 for every £100 invested although a handful managed to do better.

Broken down further, the computer printout shows that only two unit trusts, M&G's Sterling High Interest and Perpetual's Money, made a positive return over all the periods measured since their respective launches. As their high points, M&G was up 5.73 per cent and Perpetual 2.09 per cent.

But unit trusts in general fared badly last year on the back of turbulent world stock markets. In the UK alone, the FTSE All-Share Index fell by 10 per cent in 1994. As a result of the volatile equity and bond markets, at no time between the period of April 1, 1994, to April 3, 1995, did the Microcap average of all unit trusts produce a profit. Over that timespan, the benchmark Microcap unit trust is showing a loss of 9.71 per cent.

Of course it is very hard, although not impossible, for a new unit trust to show a profit after just two or three months. Unit trusts deduct an average up-front fee of 5 per cent, and some even more, from your money before it is invested so the fund manager has to make that investment work even harder in the first few months simply to overcome the charging handicap. But it can be done. The Credit Suisse South

Africa unit trust, for example, is showing a handsome return of nearly 15 per cent since its launch last summer. At the time, South Africa had just installed its first democratically elected government, sanctions had been lifted and President Mandela's drive to attract inward investment was receiving enthusiastic support from overseas.

Electrolux, the manufacturer of household appliances, immediately announced that it would set up a new joint venture as did Pepsi, the food and drink group.

Another new unit trust to benefit from the renewed surge of interest in South Africa was Save & Prosper's Southern Africa fund. Between October and the beginning of April, it was showing a return, albeit a modest one, of 3.23 per cent.

But investors who jumped on the South African bandwagon later missed the excitement. Both trusts are showing a loss in the period from the start of the year to the beginning of April, with Credit Suisse down 3.51 per cent and Save & Prosper nearly 7 per cent. This is not necessarily a signal that the best of the South Africa story has unfolded.

S&P can at least console itself with the fact that its Southern Africa venture was the most successful of its four new unit trust launches last year. Of these, only the S&P Extra Income fund is showing a gain over any of the time periods measured since launch. Since dealings started on October 3, it is up by 3.08 per cent and, so far this year, it has contained the downside to 7p for every £100 invested.

The real laggard in S&P's newcomers is its Latin America fund. Investors who piled in at launch early last summer and have stuck with it ever since will have seen the value of every £100 invested slide to £67.70. But while specialist unit trusts, whether they invest in emerging markets or commodities such as gold and oil, provide some glamour and the potential for profit, the UK stock market is still the bedrock for most investors.

Last year, unit trusts collectively attracted almost £20 billion and much of it was invested in UK funds representing both the income and

capital growth sectors. In spite of the 10 per cent fall in the FTSE All-Share index, a number of new UK trust launches managed to limit losses to less than that. Fidelity's UK Dividend Growth, for example, is down by less than 3 per cent since launch, while the Sovereign FTSE 100 unit trust has fallen by just 0.81 per cent.

Income was a recurring theme of last year's launches. In common with other newcomers, they too are showing losses but fortunately these have not been as brutal as some of the more exotic funds. The danger for income-seekers, however, is that to maintain a certain level of income in the face of such uncertain stock market conditions it may be necessary to dig into the capital.

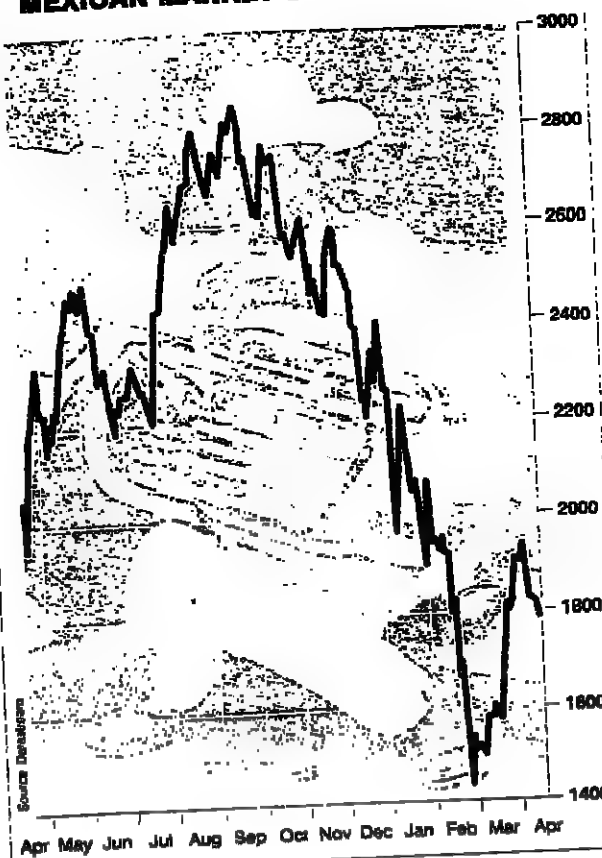
In performance terms, the Allchurches Higher Income fund is showing a loss so far this year of just under 7 per cent while Guinness Flight's Income Share fund is down 7.50 per cent since its launch a year ago. Midland's Monthly Income fund has turned in a steady performance since its debut in February 1994. Investors who went in at the start have seen the value of every £100 invested fall to £94.46, but since July it is showing a profit, even if it is a rather modest one of just 30p.

Unit trust managers defend many of their new launches on the grounds that they are satisfying investor demand. That is certainly true, but only up to a point. Many of the more esoteric unit trusts are more marketing than investment driven. The sad fact is that by the time they are ready to push the boat out that particular market or commodity has peaked and investors are piling in at the top only to see the value of their investment immediately nosedive.

Unit trusts are not a short-term investment and a snapshot of just one year should not be taken in isolation. But it can serve as an early warning signal. You might, for instance, have chosen the right theme but the wrong manager who cannot match the performance of other similar trusts.

Generally speaking, a reasonable time span is two to three years. But if you do get your timing right and are sitting on a respectable profit, never be afraid to bank it.

MEXICAN MARKET SINGS THE BLUES



Funds flop in Latin America

The fall from grace of the Mexican stock market has been dramatic. Once considered the first port of call for any investor wanting an exposure to Latin America, it is now being given a wide berth in favour of other smaller markets in the region.

In February, it seemed that relief was at hand when President Clinton, backed by the International Monetary Fund, announced a \$50 billion rescue package for Mexico.

Until just before the Easter break, the Mexican stock market had staged a month-long recovery. This might have continued but for a bout of profit-taking by relieved investors and concern over the effectiveness of the Government's emergency economic package.

While the geographical proximity of Mexico to the US proved a major attraction to the notoriously inward-looking US investor, other Latin American countries came into favour on sound investment principles.

Fund managers reasoned that these countries were overthrowing dictatorships

and installing democratically elected governments that were prepared to introduce tough fiscal measures to tackle hitherto sky-high inflation rates.

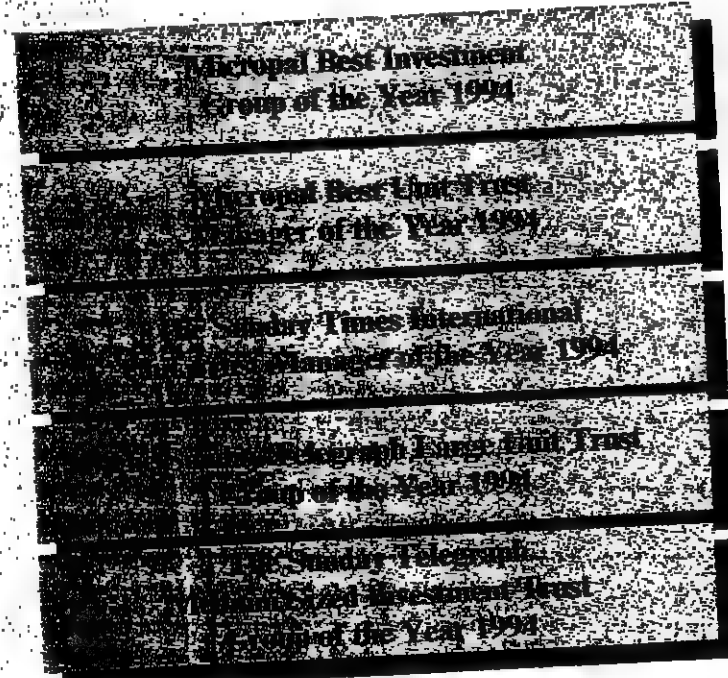
However, the spectre of inflation loomed large on Brazil's horizon this week when the Senate approved a 43 per cent increase in the country's minimum wage.

Looking through last year's launches, Perpetual's Latin American Growth fund, introduced last December, is, hardly surprisingly, down, given the present crisis, by more than 35 per cent, while Baillie Gifford's Latin America trust, launched at the same time, is down nearly 32 per cent.

The equally popular launch theme of the catch-all emerging markets shows a similar pattern.

Sun Life's Emerging Markets trust, for instance, is down almost 33 per cent since launch and the value of £100 invested in Portfolio's Emerging Markets is now worth £51.16. Save & Prosper's Emerging Markets fund, introduced last March, is down 24.27 per cent since it came on line at the beginning of March last year.

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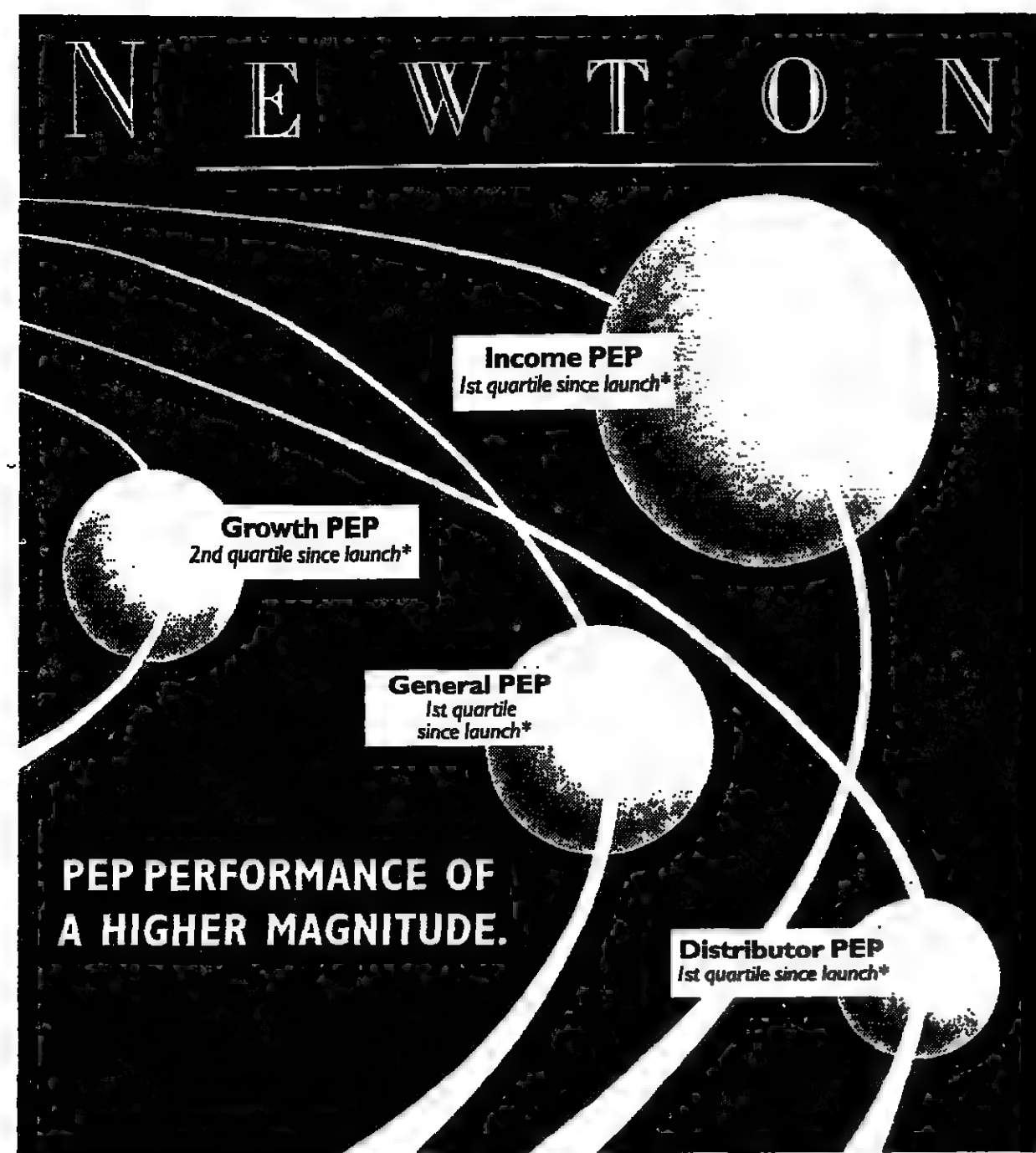
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Helen Pridham examines foreign markets favoured by unit trust funds



Despite the devastation, the Kobe earthquake is expected to give the Japanese economy a boost in the long term

Land of the rising yen

Unit trusts have broadened the investment horizons of thousands who would otherwise have kept all their money in the UK market. Buying foreign shares is a complicated business so why not let the unit trust managers take the strain? However, a foreign unit trust remains something of

an adventure, as performance data for these markets is not always readily available. Below we review the performance and prospects of some overseas markets. The tables, from Micropal, show the value, offer to bid, of £100 invested for one year, as at April 17; net income is reinvested.

During 1994, Japanese unit trusts produced the best overall results for UK investors recording average gains of 7.6 per cent. However, the Tokyo stock market had already started to turn down in the middle of last year as the recovery in the economy failed to proceed as had been expected.

This year also got off to a bad start with the Kobe earthquake, which slowed down economic recovery in the first quarter. Longer term, reconstruction of the devastated areas is expected to give the Japanese economy greater momentum. Increased public spending and demand for housing and related consumer durable goods should help to boost growth during 1995.

Nevertheless, the combined impact of the earthquake and the fallout from the Barings

crisis led to sharp stock market falls. The strengthening yen has also depressed the Japanese market because it means the rate at which Japanese corporate profits are likely to grow is reduced. Consequently, those unit trusts based on derivatives

that benefit when shares fall — the bear funds — currently lead the one-year sector performance table.

Ironically, Mercury's Japanese Equity Bull fund is also among the top performers in the sector, thanks to the appreciation of the yen, while other funds that have hedged their exposure to the currency have done less well.

However, the Japanese Government has recently unveiled an economic package designed to counter the strength of the yen and the squeeze on export earnings. Many unit trust groups now see better times ahead. In its latest investment commentary, Schroders points out that despite the difficult conditions in Japan "we are still forecasting positive profits growth in 1995 and 1996, in the latter case of over 50 per cent".

| JAPAN | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Top Five Funds | £ |
| Mercury WT Japanese Equity Bear | 127 |
| Growth Japan Bear | 120 |
| Old Mutual Japan | 92 |
| Mercury WT Japanese Equity Bull | 82 |
| Prudential Japanese | 82 |
| Bullion Five Funds | |
| Baring Japan Sunrise | 70 |
| S&P Japan Smaller Companies | 72 |
| United Japan Smaller Cos | 72 |
| Five Arrows Japanese Smaller Cos | 72 |
| Sonoma Japanese Smaller Cos | 70 |
| Sector Average | 84 |

Volatility under the spotlight

INVESTING in the world's smaller stock markets became fashionable during the early 1990s. Emerging markets unit trusts became "favourite of the month" and a clutch of new trusts were launched. Managers spoke of the exciting growth prospects but the flipside was the high risk involved. The past year has highlighted the higher risks and greater volatility to be expected from these funds.

Emerging markets funds can invest worldwide, but the two main areas for investment are Latin America and South-East Asia. Unit trusts with exposure to Latin America fared particularly badly when those markets plunged after the unexpected devaluation of the Mexican peso in December. Within a month, the Mexican stock market had fallen by more than 40 per cent. Brazil 27 per cent and Argentina 20 per cent.

Although the US Government stepped in with a rescue package to tide Mexico over, sentiment was badly damaged and investors were pulling out. There were fears that what had happened in Mexico would be repeated elsewhere in the region. However, Argentina acted quickly to head off a crisis

of confidence in the Argentine peso and Brazil also started to introduce reforms. Although it appears that Latin America is going to be volatile for some time and overseas investors more cautious, some unit trust managers have started to dip their toes back in the water.

"Shares are now starting to look cheap and we may add slightly to our Brazilian and Mexican exposure, through small purchases of stock," says Schroders in its April investment commentary.

South-East Asian markets, which had performed exceptionally well in 1993, had already suffered a poor 1994 after the rise in US interest rates resulted in an outflow of US money back to America, before being further undermined by investor jitters about emerging markets generally after the Mexican crisis.

Other factors added to the uncertainty, notably the question of who will succeed China's Deng Xiaoping and the effect this will have on the region. The Barings crisis did not help local stock market confidence either. However, markets have recovered to push specialist Asian unit trust funds up the one-year performance

table, and the future looks brighter. Investment experts at Fidelity point out: "US interest rates now seem to be peaking and this should remove one of the major negatives for the equity markets in the Asian region. Most of the bad news now seems to be discounted by markets, and investors should, in time, focus on the positive underlying fundamentals."

Those at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management say: "The region remains the world's main growth area, consistently producing 6-7 per cent GDP growth and corporate earnings growth in the mid-teens."

| EMERGING MARKETS | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Top Five Funds | £ |
| Old Mutual Thailand | 111 |
| Old Mutual Emerging Asia | 104 |
| Nat Singapore & Malaysia | 104 |
| HSBC Sing & Malay Growth | 102 |
| Fidelity ASEAN | 100 |
| Bullion Five Funds | |
| Mercury Emerging Markets | 76 |
| Franklin Emerging Markets | 76 |
| Manit Currie Emerging Markets | 74 |
| Asia Pacific Emerging Markets | 70 |
| Sector Average | 81 |

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Templeton

Over the hurdles

FOUR years of strong economic growth and increasing corporate profits made the US stock market one of the better performers in 1994.

At the same time, the buoyant economic conditions also gave rise to fears of a resurgence in US inflation, which unsettled world markets generally last year. Interest rates were raised by the US Federal Reserve to slow the economy and control inflation.

Initially, markets were unconvinced that these measures

were having the desired effect, but since the start of this year the US market has risen steadily as investors anticipated an end to rate rises and a "soft landing" for the economy — moderate economic growth combined with low inflation.

The market has also been boosted by US investors repatriating money from emerging markets, though the one-year unit trust performance tables suggest that the recovery has not yet been sufficient for most UK unit trust investors. The average North American fund is showing a 5 per cent loss over 12 months.

Analysts differ over what happens next, but experts at Fidelity, the unit trust manager, takes a positive view, saying "recent economic statistics have been mixed, but we believe that the economy will slow over coming months and that earnings growth, although off its peak, remains attractive".

Mark and franc in focus

INVESTMENT experts at Mercury Asset Management said the reason why the mark is so highly valued is that "the Bundesbank has continued to take an aggressive line against the inflationary consequences of reunification, and its temporary budget deficit problems seem to be abating."

However, the strength of the mark has been less good for its stock market because it makes the output of manufacturing companies, which form the backbone of the German economy, less competitive.

In France, investors are awaiting the outcome of the presidential election. A win by Jacques Chirac now seems more likely than it did a couple of months ago when Edouard Balladur, Prime Minister, was front-runner, but the outcome is far from certain.

Although M Chirac is per-

ceived to be more likely to tone down the policy of pegging the franc to the mark that has led to high real French interest rates, he has said that he will keep the franc in the exchange-rate mechanism.

But he has also indicated higher government spending that could lead to pressure on the franc. This may lead him to have to increase interest rates rather than cut them.

EUROPE

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|-----------------------------|-----|
| Top Five Funds | £ |
| Mercury WT Euro Equity Bear | 126 |
| Growth European Bear | 110 |
| Garnore Euro Select Opps | 103 |
| FP European Growth | 102 |
| K9 European Special | 701 |
| Bullion Five Funds | |
| BG Europe | 86 |
| BG European Smaller Cost | 85 |
| TSE European | 84 |
| OT Germany | 83 |
| Sector Average | 93 |

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Supporters out to make the most of lesser final

By Peter Ball

LIKE the League Cup in its various guises, the Auto Windscreens Shield can attract some fairly snuffy comment from football's chattering classes. For the followers of the game's underclass, however, the final at Wembley is indeed their Cup Final.

Birmingham City and Carlisle United will attract at least 75,000 to the old stadium tomorrow, a bigger crowd than that which saw Bolton against Liverpool in this year's Coca-Cola Cup final, and the biggest in the competition since Burnley played Wolves in front of 80,340.

That meeting of two of the game's former giants had rather more resonance than tomorrow's match, but this one is a perfect reflection of the state of the game even down to both clubs possessing chairmen more famous than their players — the publisher David Sullivan at Birmingham, Michael Knighton, the erst-

while would-be owner of Manchester United, at Carlisle.

Birmingham, though, are beginning to fulfil their potential. Down and almost out not so long ago, they have been rescued by a combination of Sullivan and their manager, the irrepressible Barry Fry. Now their ground is being converted into a stadium fit for the Premiership, and they are averaging nearly 20,000 for home games for this competition, such is the hunger for success in the city.



Otto: talented winger

They are still the second city's second club, but not in the hearts of many Birminghams, including it would seem, the city council. They are holding a civic reception to mark the occasion, an honour not bestowed on Aston Villa, when they won the Coca-Cola Cup last year, or on Warwickshire for their dramatic cricketing success last summer.

The game comes in the

middle of an important week for Birmingham. Last Wednesday's win at Plymouth took them back to the top of the second division. Next Wednesday they play second-placed Brentford. "If we win the Auto Windscreens Shield and don't get promotion the season will have been a disaster," Fry said.

Tomorrow they will have to do without José Dominguez, their Portuguese international winger. Portugal have claimed him in international week for their under-21 game in Dublin. However Jack Charlton, the Ireland manager, has released Liam Daish, the powerful centre-half, and David Barnett returns after missing the win over Plymouth.

Peter Shearer, their combative midfielder player, is also expected to return and, with Louis Donawa back in contention after coming successfully through 45 minutes in the reserves, Birmingham are approaching full strength. Much could depend on the performance of the enigmatic, but talented, winger Ricky Otto, at just under £1 million a big-money purchase from South-land United, Fry's former club.

Carlisle will be the underdogs, and they have stumbled at the wrong moment, their runaway lead in the third division having been cut back to eight points. Tomorrow they have doubts about their American midfielder player Paul Conway, and right back Darren Edmondson.

If Birmingham is enjoying its moment in the sun, South Yorkshire football has been unsuccessful for even longer than the county's cricket team. It will be the centre of attention today with Middlesbrough and Wolves the visitors for two matches with important implications for promotion to the Premiership.

Middlesbrough, who are favourites to claim the one automatic promotion spot, visit Barnsley, just one place outside the play-off places. Both sides have thrived under new player-managers, but both will be missing this afternoon. Bryan Robson is injured while Barnsley's Northern Irish international, Danny Wilson, is suspended.

Down the road at Bramall Lane, where Sheffield United are just in contention on the fringes of a play-off spot, Wolverhampton Wanderers are the visitors. Manager Graham Taylor believes they can still win the championship. They will need to win today.



Kevin Gallacher, who scored the second goal for Blackburn Rovers in their 2-1 FA Cup final victory over Crystal Palace on Thursday, faces

another spell on the sidelines after breaking his leg an hour into his first appearance of the season. "I was on such a high and ended up on such a

low," Gallacher said yesterday. He has a hairline fracture of the same leg which was broken in two places and kept him out of action for 15 months.

Hodde offers a forlorn farewell

By Russell Knapton

IF IT really was the swansong of Glenn Hodde, if it really was the final 29 minutes of a playing career that has thrilled and enthralled over two decades, it was a sombre occasion on which to bow out. Chelsea had battered themselves into submission, but not their opponents. At Stamford Bridge on Thursday, it was Real Zaragoza, of Spain, who earned the right to take on Arsenal in the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup in Paris on May 10.

Hodde emerged, in the aftermath of an emotional charged and strength-sapping evening, a jaded, almost forlorn figure. The Chelsea player-manager had brought

himself on, as a 61st-minute substitute, in a vain attempt to change the course of a semi-final second leg that had already lurched decisively in Zaragoza's favour.

They were 3-0 ahead from the first leg and 1-0 down on the night, but Santiago Aragon's vital 54th-minute equaliser meant that Chelsea had to score four more times to go through. Although Frank Sinclair and Mark Stein added to Paul Purling's first-half goal in a raucous and rousing finale, the 3-1 victory was not enough. For Chelsea, and maybe Hodde, it was the end of the road.

"I am glad I got on because that could have been my last game," Hodde, 37, said, a weary shrug suggesting that

an alert mind was now unable to compensate for an aching body. He had been troubled for five weeks and played a part, under sufferance, because his squad had been reduced by injuries.

In his 21st season as a player, in a career in which he has also embroidered England, Tottenham Hotspur, AS Monaco and Swindon Town with his silky skills, Hodde has started only two matches — against Liverpool and Manchester United — and appeared nine times as a substitute. Prolonging Chelsea's survival in the FA Cup final, Hodde's presence has been easier from the dug-out.

Yet the time has arrived when, by his own admission,

Hodde will no longer deliver pinpoint 50-yard passes and shifty past markers as though they were statues. If not quite now, with Chelsea having four league games left and their casualty list still grim, then certainly at the end of the season.

Twice before, Hodde had experienced the bitter taste of defeat in the semi-final of a European club competition. After the third, he spoke of a spirit and commitment from his side that had at least given him some satisfaction and consolation. Had Chelsea achieved an improbable, won and gone on to Paris, it would have perhaps provided Hodde with a more fitting stage on which to bid his farewells.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Monarchs intent on sinking Admirals

AFTER two games in Germany, the London Monarchs play at White Hart Lane tomorrow against the Amsterdam Admirals, the only unbeaten team in the World League of American Football (Richard Wetherell writes). The Monarchs' home reflects the league's scaled-down expectations: London were based at Wembley in 1991 and 1992.

In their season opener, the Monarchs were defeated by Frankfurt 45-22. However, they looked a different proposition last week in Düsseldorf, where they beat the Rhein Fire 23-7. The Admirals' victories, both at home to dismally low crowds, have been by a total of six points. Their prime threat is Ralph Dawkins, who has gained 184 rushing yards and is dangerous on kick-offs, with 164 yards on returns. Both totals lead the league.

In Frankfurt tonight, the Scottish Claymores will seek their first win after two narrow defeats, 19-17 and 10-7. They have the leading receiver, Tim Barnett and Allen DeGraffenreid, but basic errors cost them at least the first game, if not the second as well.

Young opens in style

TABLE TENNIS: England, the holders, began their defence of the Commonwealth title with a 4-0 win against Sri Lanka and a 4-1 defeat of Northern Ireland in Singapore yesterday, with Terry Young, 16, winning three of his four matches. A victory over Australia today will leave England top of group A at the end of the first stage. England's women, seeded second, have only to beat India today to finish top of their group after wins by 4-1 over Mauritius and 4-2 over Canada.

Doohan sets pace again

MOTORCYCLING: Michael Doohan, the world 500cc champion, who is seeking his third straight win of the season, yesterday steered his Honda to the fastest lap time in the opening practice session for the Japanese Grand Prix in Suzuka tomorrow. The Australian, who won nine rounds last year and in Sydney and Malaysia this season, completed a lap of the 3.64-mile course in 2min 08.57sec. Shinya Ito, of Japan, his team-mate, was 0.977sec behind.

Status preserved

ICE HOCKEY: Although Great Britain lost their final game in pool B of the world championships in Bratislava yesterday, going down 8-4 to Latvia, they seem likely to finish seventh in the pool — barring an upset in the final game between Slovakia and Romania — which will enable them to retain their place next season. Scott Morrison scored twice for the British team, who put in a strong finish after trailing 8-2.

Tanner stays in charge

CYCLING: John Tanner, the Sheffield professional, who has headed the British road race rankings since May last year, will retain his lead in the Premier Calendar series, whatever the result of the fifth round, the 103-mile Welwyn to Hatfield race, tomorrow. Tanner has a 97-point lead over Mark Walsham, his closest challenger, in the 15-race series, and there are only 40 points on offer this weekend. Fifteen professionals are among the full entry of 80 tomorrow.

Record beckons Towers

BASKETBALL: The London Towers will establish a peculiar record when they compete in the Budweiser championship finals in the Wembley Arena next weekend. From their home at Wembley Court to the arena must be all of 250 yards, and is therefore the shortest trip a team will ever make to a leading sporting event at Wembley. The Towers secured their place in the finals with a 91-73 defeat of The Leopards on Thursday in the quarter-final play-offs.

Chance for Reading

HOCKEY: The five winners of the women's regional leagues meet in Bristol this weekend to decide which two teams will replace Pickwick and Blackburn in the second division (Alix Ramsay writes). One of the favourites in the round-robin tournament will be Reading, coached by Kate Parker and Denise Shorey. The club has been within striking distance of the national league since the former internationals joined them from Slough three seasons ago.

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
* denotes all-England match

English Insurance League

First division

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| (1) Barnsley v Middlesbrough | (11) Sheffield United v Wolverhampton |
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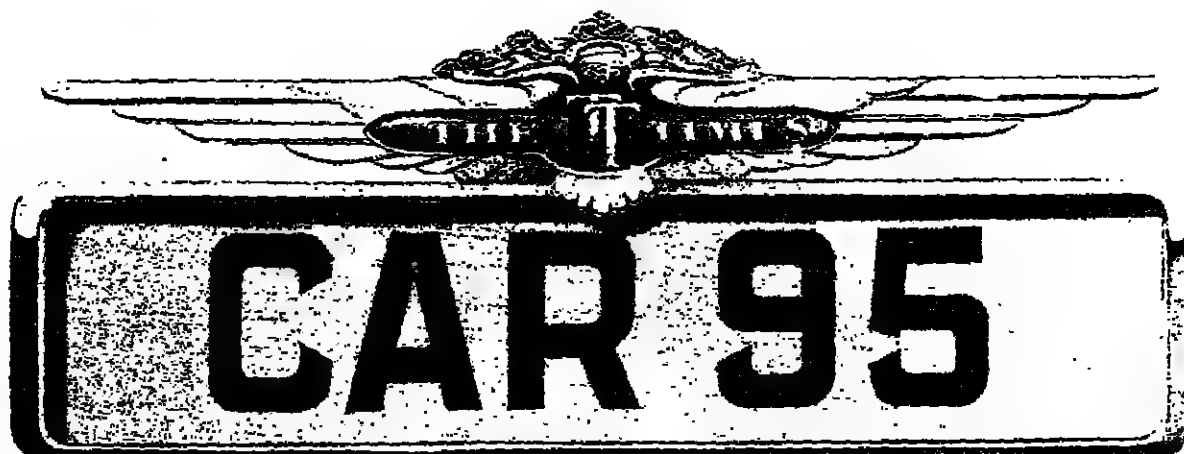
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| Liverpool St Helens v Stourbridge | |
| Llanvorydd v Hereford (2:30) | |
| Metropolitan Police v Askeians | |
| Newbridge v London Welsh (2:30) | |
| Newcastle Emlyn v Narberth (2:30) | |
| Orley v Preston Grasshoppers | |
| Plymouth v Weston-super-Mare | |
| Richmond v Newport | |
| Rosslyn Park v Reading | |
| Stoke v Birkbehead Park | |
| Taibard v Leighton Buzzard | |
| Wharfedale v Leeds | |
| Escholtz International | |
| Wales Under-16 v England Under-16 | |
| St. Pancras | |



Oh baby!
On the
road in
a 16-ton
buggy

Page 10



The search
begins for
Company
Car Driver
of the Year

Page 2



SATURDAY APRIL 22 1995

A Bill now going through Parliament could radically alter rallying in this country, reports **Oliver Holt**



On the wrong track? A new Environment Bill that emphasises the "quiet enjoyment and understanding" of Britain's National Parks could, believe some, deal a devastating blow to the country's most popular spectator sport

'Green' law threatens future of motor sport

Britain's biggest spectator sport is under threat because of two problem clauses in a government Bill now passing through the House of Commons.

Events such as the RAC Rally, which is watched by more than a million people every November, and five rounds of the Mobil 1/Top Gear British Rally Championship, could be altered beyond recognition if the letter of the law is enforced.

The Environment Bill, which went through the Commons last week, demands that:

• National Parks are promoted as havens of "quiet enjoyment and understanding";
• Where there is a conflict between activities, such as motor sport, and quiet enjoyment of the countryside, the authorities must "attach greater weight to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the parks".

The Commons Environment Committee is hearing evidence on whether events such as rallying upset forests and woodland already under attack from other activities, such as off-road driving. Environmentalists believe that MPs will have to decide whether the country-

'If the legislation goes through unchanged, it could be enormously detrimental'

side can withstand the huge assault from motor vehicles.

Neil Sinden, heritage spokesman at the Council for the Protection of Rural England, says: "We are echoing the growing concerns of people who see events like rallying as harming large parts of the countryside. We need to refine the rules under which National Parks are governed."

A high percentage of rallies staged in Britain take place on dirt roads and tracks running through National Parks. Any ban on rallying in them would, for instance, mean a wholesale re-routing of the Pirelli International Rally, the second stage of the British Rally Championship, taking place in Northumberland's Kielder Forest this weekend.

Part of the essence of rallying is the scenery that surrounds the competition, the battles with natural obstacles. The spectacle of cars in the RAC Rally hurtling through the Grizedale Forest at dawn as the sun rises over Lake Windermere is one of the most inspiring sights in

motor sport. The RAC fears it could be lost if the Bill is made law without changes.

John Quenby, chief executive of the RAC Motor Sports Association, fears the repercussions are potentially far-reaching.

He says: "I spoke to somebody recently from the Friends of the Lake District National Parks and they said I had nothing to worry about. They said rallying would always be welcome there. But my fear is that if you do not take steps to make sure motor sport is not affected, then somebody who is so minded could make mischief. The situation is open for misinterpretation."

"If the legislation goes through unchanged, it represents a real risk of being interpreted in a manner that is bound to be enormously detrimental to motor sport. We are not seeking to expand our limited use of venues within the National Parks, rather we are keen to ensure that the status quo is maintained and a century of tradition is respected. In real terms, there is

little evidence of conflict in our activities."

The discipline of following a rally through the countryside tends to support Mr Quenby's concerns. The cars come and go within a few hours for each stage, but with them comes the inevitable tally of accidents, damage to trees and shrubs, fences and walls. The noise they make, even after turbo-chargers have been largely outlawed, sounds like a huge bear growling in the woods.

Then there are the accompaniments. The crowds that flock to rallying need somewhere to park and the teams of mechanics have designated spots to repair and coax wounded and battered machinery. Most are conscientious about covering their tracks but disruption and more noise are caused by their efforts.

Anybody who views rallying with distaste and as detrimental to the countryside, rather than merely being a focus for enjoyment, could perhaps see this as their chance to pounce. The RAC is, therefore, intensifying its lobbying of MPs of all parties and encouraging members to write to their own representatives, to ensure that that opportunity does not arise.



No peace: the widow and a vehicle on the byway near her home

Uproar at rural invaders

An 80-year-old widow is the victim of a legal loophole that allows off-road vehicles to plough through land within yards of her once peaceful farmhouse, turning a grassy track into a quagmire (Vaughan Freeman writes).

The woman, who dare not be named for fear of reprisals, is one of dozens of landowners challenging the right of four-wheel-drive enthusiasts to leave the tarmac and plough up ancient bridleways and footpaths.

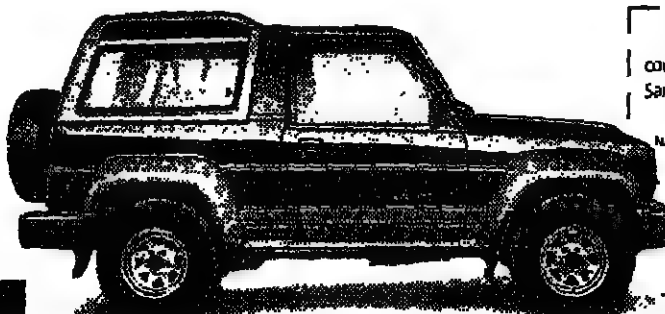
They are demanding a change in the law to end the battle that rages every weekend on what should be quiet backwaters of rural Britain.

A new pressure group, the Green Lanting Environmental Association Movement (Gleam), says the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act has provided drivers with a licence to plough up ancient tracks. Under the Act, county councils had to classify ancient tracks as bridleways, on which access is restricted to horses, cyclists and walkers, or byways, open to all traffic.

Many green-lane tracks have now been signposted as byways, so off-roaders now drive where they like — even through the middle of the widow's home near Brantree

Continued on page 3, col 1

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Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, continuing his series on a dozen vehicles that made Britain great, selects the MG TC, a classic postwar sports car

The Midget that grew up into a giant

Cut-away illustration by JOHN LAWSON

If the 3-litre Bentley is the classic British vintage sports car, the MG Midget is no less a classic in the world of small sports cars. Moreover, it had a much longer life and spread the fame of its maker much further afield than Bentley did.

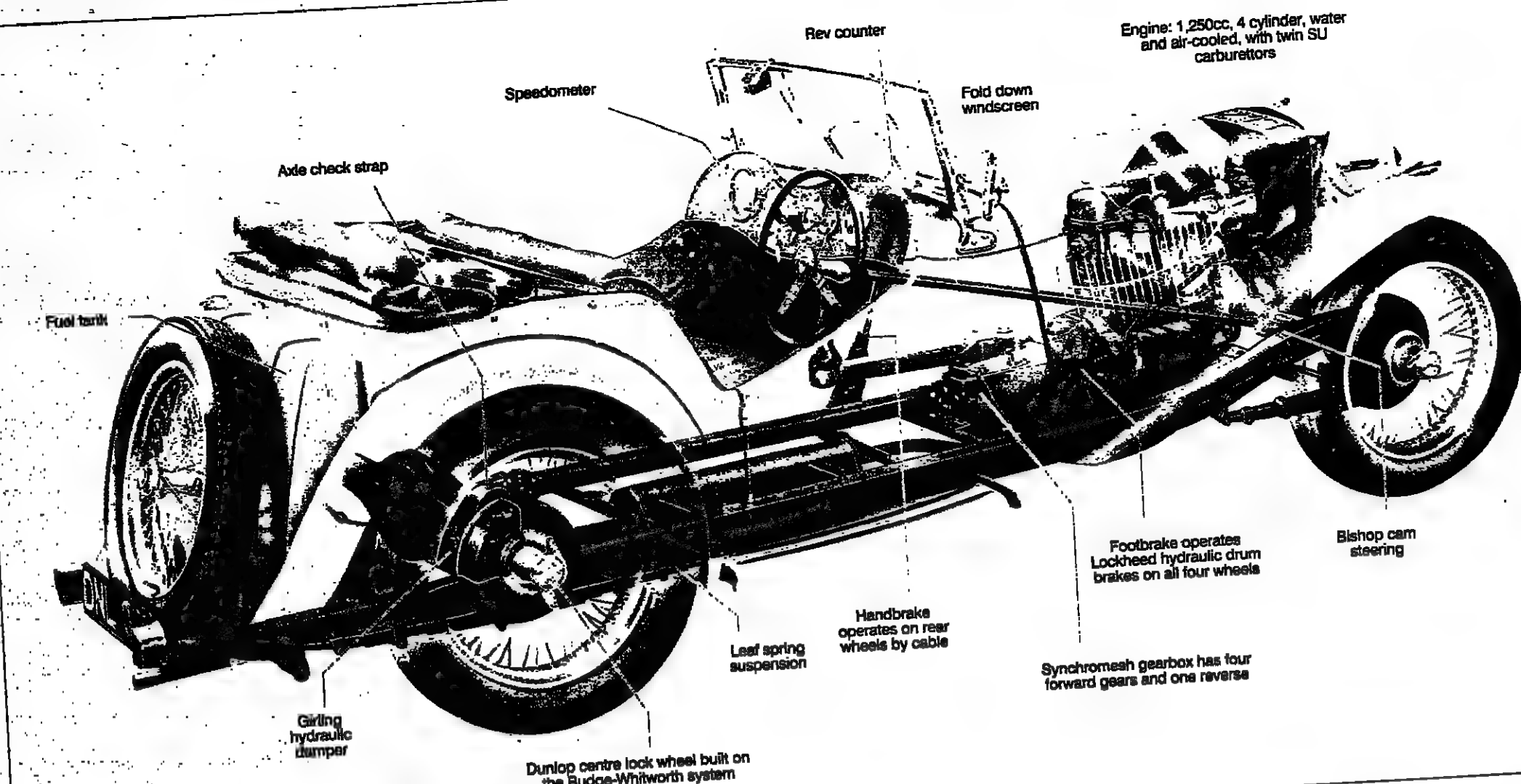
The first Midget appeared in 1928, the year in which the MG Car Company was formed. The name was an abbreviation of Morris Garages, a dealership in Oxford managed by Cecil Kimber. He modified Morris Cowleys and Oxfords, selling them under the name "The MG Super Sports Morris", and gradually the cars became more individual, using components bought from several sources instead of simply being improved Morris.

The first Midget, known as the M-type, was the first low-priced MG and was only made possible by William Morris's introduction of his Austin Seven-rivalling small car, the Morris Minor. This had an excellent overhead camshaft engine, itself a Wolseley design acquired when Morris bought up Wolseley in 1927.

Kimber bought these engines direct from Wolseley, installed them in a Morris Minor chassis with lowered suspension and greater steering rake, and mounted a simple two-seater body of fabric-covered plywood on an ash frame. It had a pointed tail, cycle-type wings and a little vee windscreen.

The bodies cost Kimber only £6.50 each, and he was able to sell the complete car for £175. Orders poured in and in its first year, more Midgets were sold than all of the previous MGs added together. Its importance cannot be overestimated, for it introduced sports cars and sports car driving to countless people who thought the breed was beyond them, either in terms of price or driving ability.

The overhead camshaft engine was continued in Midgets and other MGs in the early 1930s but 1936 saw a change of direction. Wolseley no longer made such engines and MG had to use the pushrod units from the Morris-Wolseley range. The new Midget,



Information supplied by Cotagor Sports Cars

known as the TA, had a 1,292cc engine similar, though not identical, to that used in the Wolseley Ten.

Purists sneered that it was no longer a true MG — and they regretted the quieter exhaust note so much that the system was altered to give a little more noise. However, the TA was roomier and more flexible. It gave way to the Morris Ten-powered TB in 1939 and this was the direct ancestor of the postwar TC.

Although looking much the same as the TB, the TC was four inches wider in the cockpit. Like most car manufactur-

ers the world over, MG could not afford to waste early peacetime designing new models, meeting the pent-up demand for new cars was the priority and it was obvious that the British motorist liked the MG Midget.

It was not thought that foreigners would buy the thing anyway, so nobody was more surprised than MG when sales of the TC Midget began to take off in America. At first they came to the US via Germany, where they were bought by servicemen only in 1947 did direct sales to America begin.

The TC was hardly a bargain, priced at \$2,395, nearly as much as a Buick Super Eight five-passenger convertible. Though called a sports car, its top speed of 78mph was about 10mph behind that of the Buick. It had no heater, no bumpers, its semi-elliptic suspension gave a very hard ride compared with the independent front suspension Americans were becoming accustomed to, its steering wheel was on the wrong side (unlike the later TD, the TC was never made with left-hand drive) and there were no service facilities.

Against all these defects, though, it was fun. As the

American journalist Warren Weis wrote: "It was a way of life. A wildly different car that you jacked around in on week-days and raced at weekends. It was a moving spot of colour on a still-drab postwar landscape."

The TC was important not so much for what it was as for what it started. Prior to its arrival in America, the cheap sports car was unknown. Owners soon began racing their MGs — not only famous names such as Briggs Cunningham, John Fitch and Phil Hill, but countless amateurs across the country. Membership of the American branch of the MG Car Club grew dramatically between 1947 and the early 1950s and the Sports Car Club of America, which was to promote the famous Trans-Am stock car races from the 1960s onwards, had more MGs on its roster than any other make in the early postwar years. The enthusiasm for fun motoring which the TC engendered led to demand for home-grown sports cars, which Chevrolet and Ford were soon to satisfy with the Corvette and Thunderbird.

Contrary to popular belief, the bulk of TCs were not sold in America, which took 2,001 of the 10,000 cars made. The other 4,691 export sales were to Switzerland, Belgium, Africa, Australia, Singapore and other countries. The home market took 3,408. They were widely raced here, too, and the company produced a manual of tuning recommendations, by

which power could be raised from the basic 54hp up to 97.5hp with a supercharger. This was another trend set by the TC Midget: company-backed tuning, which was later used by Ford to such good effect.

Another tradition started by the TC was royal enthusiasm for small sports cars. The first new car owned by Li Philip Mountbatten was a TC, and he used it when courting Elizabeth, despite rumours of disapproval by her parents, who thought a noisy little sports car not the most suitable transport for the future Queen.

Two decades later, Prince Charles chose for his first car an MGC coupé. The Midget name lived on in the TD and TF of the 1950s, cars which handled better with their independent front suspension, but which were frowned on at the time by purists. A much higher proportion of TDs crossed the Atlantic than TCs — 23,500 out of 29,644.

The arrival of the MGA in 1955 ended the run of Midgets for a while, but the name returned in 1961 on the little cars which shared their bodyshell and engine with the Austin-Healey Sprite. The MG version was made until 1980 but although there is no Midget on the market today, the newly announced mid-engined MGF is surely a car in the same mould. How sad it is that it cannot be sold in the United States because there is no longer a dealer network there.

'In its first year, more were sold than all previous MG cars'

Attitude problems of a sporting hero

David Watts recalls that image was everything for a car called Jug

A LONG, sleek black nose with flared wings atop silver wire wheels and a cockpit reminiscent of a Sopwith Camel, the MG TC embodied all that a sports car should be.

Driving gloves, a sheepskin jacket and a straight-through exhaust that barked with every jab of the accelerator topped off the image of a car, a driver and an attitude which were everything they should not be.

JUG 951, or Jug for short — had big fat racing tyres at the back which were twice the width of those at the front.

The effect was that the road-holding was excellent in the rear but indifferent to non-existent at the front, which, on North Yorkshire's narrow winding lanes, meant the front tended to go straight on at corners, particularly on wet roads.

Couple that with a favourite pub some five miles distant down those same lanes, a bitter rivalry with the owner of a Morgan 4/4, and one was fortunate to survive to the mid-twenties.

Not that the TC was a fire-breathing monster. Any fan-fairly saloon of the 1930s could outturn it with ease but it was the manifest sense of adventure and the proximity to the ground that made it fun — along, of course, with its ability to attract the opposite sex.

The ladies withstood the discomfort with extraordinary sang froid, including repeated mechanical mishaps which saw the intrepid driver being towed back to

base from all four points of the compass. In fact, Jug became so popular, and the coterie wanting to come along for the ride so large, that I had to persuade a very dubious local bobby that everything was legal so long as the three or four people riding on the back had their feet and hands within the car.

AS WITH most such cars, the ratio of maintenance to operational time would probably have disgraced Concorde, but then that was supposed to be half the fun. And it was, until I attempted a barrel roll in Jug — inadvertently, of course.

Late one summer night, even an armoured personnel carrier. The lane became a quagmire. After a legal case that cost the Dunlops £15,000 in legal fees, the reclassification has been overturned by the High Court and gates are due to go up this month to stop vehicles using the track.

David Gardiner, Glean's chairman elect, lives near the Ridgeway, thought to be Britain's oldest right of way, which runs 85 miles from Wiltshire to Hertfordshire, and a green lane, known as Old Street, which runs to the Ridgeway from the village of Chieveley. He says: "Old Street may be even older than the Ridgeway. It is seven miles long, and four-and-a-half miles of it has been damaged with mud ruts two feet deep. It is impassable on foot or on horse. Old Street is hundreds of not thousands of years old and in just one winter it has been absolutely ruined by off-road vehicles."

Mr Gardiner blames the soaring number of off-road sales, up from 8,000 a year in 1983 to 60,000 in 1993, and the consequences of the 1981 Act. He says the law must be changed: "It might be great fun to drive a four-wheel-drive down a green lane, but they simply are not suitable for use on an unsurfaced road."

Dr Dashboard, page 10



Fiesta time: Alexandra Freen and the boys in her back-up team at Brands Hatch

Alexandra Freen finds herself in a spin at Brands

Strapped into a Ford Fiesta RS1800 racing saloon, clad from head to toe in a fire-proof suit, crash helmet firmly fastened and my car awkwardly positioned on the grass in the middle of the Brands Hatch racing circuit, I watched as everybody else sped by. My vehicle had spun off the track after just one lap and I was wondering what to do next.

Taking part in a support race at the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) last weekend, I realised life in the fast lane is as much about tactics and knowledge of the rules of racing and trackcraft, as it is about driving fast. One of the basic rules I picked up after spinning off during testing is to get back on to the circuit as soon as possible if the car is not damaged.

I also learned that competing in an organised race requires nerves of steel, not so much because there is anything intrinsically frightening about driving fast, but more because race meetings involve hours of waiting around between events and far too much time for rethinking tactics and eye-balling the competition.

I entered the Ford Fiesta Challenge event, one of nine races at the BTCC event

Lapping up life in the not-so-fast lane...

staged at Brands on Bank Holiday Monday in front of 29,000 spectators. It's one of the country's top one-make saloon car racing series. Qualifying sessions took place the day before.

Although the only woman and the sole novice in a field of 33 seasoned male drivers, I felt relatively calm while driving, even when I spun off during my brief test drive.

For the 30-minute qualifying session, all my concentration was focused on attempting to take the car through the all-important "racing line" (the shortest route through each bend), attempting to build up speed, and avoiding the other competitors as they crowded around, behind and on both sides, within — literally — centimetres of my car.

Colin Stancombe, an experienced Fiesta Credit Challenge driver, who won Monday's event, advised me to use "a light touch" and "finger-tip" control on the steering wheel. Every muscle of my body was so tense, however, that I failed to do this and woke up the next day with aching arms. Although my lap time in the qualifying round was not fast enough to allow me to enter the main race on the Monday, I was proud that I had taken part, without any obvious damage to myself or my car. As John Hartshorne, who finished 11th in Monday's Fiesta Credit Challenge, told me: "The roads are full of blokes who think they could do better than most racing drivers, but put them in a car on the grid at Brands Hatch at the start of the race and they would suddenly change their minds." It is not quite as easy as it looks.

My vehicle was provided by Ford, which runs a celebrity car to raise money for the Women On the Move Against Cancer charity and for the Macmillan Appeal. Stancombe Vehicle Engineering provided the technical back-up, moral support and countless cups of tea.

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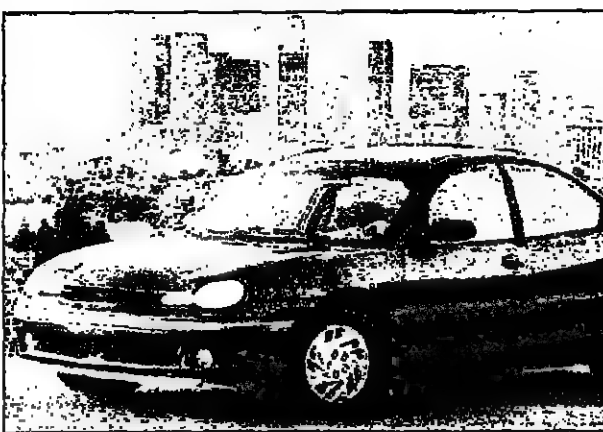
Flashy Neon set to prove a winner for Uncle Sam

We may have a special relationship with America, but it has never extended to our mainstream cars being successful in each other's markets. This is about to change with the introduction of Chrysler's US-built Neon to Europe and, by early next year, Britain (Hilton Highway writes).

One of the main reasons for the Neon's potential over here is the innovative styling. Known in the trade as "cab-forward", Chrysler's stylists have stretched the windscreen and roof pillars forward and given the roof line a distinctive high curve. Add in the oval headlights and clever exterior details, and the overall effect is of a bigger brother to the Vauxhall Corsa. Even the interior is a riot of modish curves and bulges.

Although the Neon is little bigger than an Escort, it has 98 per cent of the internal volume of the larger Mondeo, with the sense of space heightened by the deep dashboard and windows. Only the impossible-to-see boot will cause complaint when parking.

Chrysler was stung by press



Chrysler's Neon: a class act from over there to over here

criticism of the Neon's ride and refinement at the European launch, so it set about reducing engine noise and improving ride quality on European roads before the car went on sale.

A recent drive in the revamped Neon proved it is a serious competitor. All of the cars have a 132bhp, 2.0-litre engine as standard and the specification list will include twin airbags, a cracking stereo, electric windows and central locking.

On British roads, it acquires itself well: the gearbox is slick, the engine very powerful for this class, and it's a car with a strong "feel-good" factor.

In the Vento/Astra/Escort class, only Peugeot's 306 Sedan looks to have the style and speed to match it. The well-specified base Neon is likely to cost about £10,300 here, and the top-spec model, including air conditioning and cruise control, about £12,900.

'Ren O Apeel' launched

By Tony Dawe

OWNERS dissatisfied with peeling paint on their Renault Espace "people-carriers" have formed an action group to try to force the company to repair their vehicles.

Under the title Ren O Apeel, they are planning a series of high-profile events, including a day trip on Le Shuttle, which has featured an Espace with gleaming paintwork in advertisements.

"Staging activities like this seems the only hope of making Renault sit up and take notice," said Chris Puckey, the group's co-ordinator. "I have been trying for years to persuade the company to accept responsibility for the paint problems."

The lacquer finish on Mr Puckey's 1985 Espace peeled off in sheets but other owners have experienced "crazing" or microblistering on their paintwork. "There seem to be

three problem periods, with vehicles from late 1985, 1987/8 and 1990," Mr Puckey said.

He has received dozens of calls since CAR 95 reported his complaint two months ago and is hoping other Espace owners with paint problems will contact the group at 30 Beauford Road, Ingham, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Renault says the number of complaints is too small to indicate a production problem.

German executives exchange BMWs for Rovers

By Kevin Eason

HUNDREDS of BMW executives are ordering Rovers as their company cars, giving a seal of approval to British-made models which once struggled for credibility in one of the world's most discerning marketplaces.

More than 60 senior managers at the company's headquarters in Munich were given the chance to swap their sleek BMWs, paid for by the company, for Rovers when the German maker bought the British group for £800 million last year.

BMW decided Rover matched its own quality and reliability standards and sanctioned a pilot scheme to allow models such as the Mini, the Land Rover Discovery and the Rover 200 and 400 hatchbacks and saloons to be added to the company car list.

BMW admits that many of its executives knew little about Rovers, which sold in small numbers in Germany, until the takeover. However, after meetings in Britain, BMW managers are often given the chance to drive Rovers to learn more about their new partners. As a result, many have placed orders for the cars.

Rover started processing the first 100 orders from Munich last week and dozens more are expected as the managers exchange their BMWs for cars from Birmingham, Solihull and Oxford.

The Mini, 36 years old but still one of Rover's best exports, has proved one of the most popular orders, along with the Land Rover Discovery, Rover's fastest growing model range. Output of the vehicle, launched six years ago, started at 270 a week but will be cranked up to 1,760 a week from August.

Andrew Pierce records the motoring loves and hates of a top disc jockey

What drives Steve Wright crazy in the mornings?

Steve Wright, one of Britain's most popular radio presenters, recorded his last breakfast show for Radio 1 yesterday after 14 years on the BBC airwaves.

Wright, who earned a reputed £165,000 a year, is planning a new career in television. Buoyed by the success of two earlier BBC series, he will be back on the small screen in June with the Steve Wright People Show.

The self-effacing Wright, who will continue radio work, admits he is puzzled by his success on television: "I have the perfect face for radio. I am not good looking and I have a big nose."

How did you learn to drive?

When I was 17, I was working for Tonibell, Felix, the ice-cream man, taught me to drive in between serving 99s. I drove the car better than I served the ice creams.

What was your first car?

A blue Hillman Imp. It was third-hand. It was love at first sight. It was my first valuable possession, which meant I had to sell a lot of ice creams. I saved up for it for two years. It was a bargain at £110. This was long before I joined Radio 1, you understand.

What car do you drive now and why?

The family car is a Volvo which I like because it seems safe, sturdy and ultra reliable. It is a bit sluggish but once it kicks it can really motor. Within the speed limit, of course. Our runaround is an old Scirocco I bought about four years ago. When you are driving between radio and television studios in London, you need a car

you don't care about. And I don't. Which is just as well. It has been towed away, clamped, bumped into and even stolen. Unfortunately, like a bad penny, it always comes back.

What is your dream car?

I have always fancied one of those hand-made Morgans. Anything which has been put together with such painstaking effort must be worth having. I think the television series will have to be a great success before I fulfil that ambition.

What is your most hated car?

One which is jacked up on

bricks. The dubious delights of Ford Escorts and Vauxhalls leave me cold.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Scratching my nose when I think nobody is looking. Trouble is, I normally get it wrong — and they are looking.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

I don't like anybody who wears a hat in the car. I also think motorists over the age of 60 tend to drive dangerously slowly — particularly when I am behind them and late for an appointment.

PETER THORNTON



The Wright stuff: the presenter with his family Volvo

FERRARI

MONTECARLO 2.0 24V, 2 Dr, 1600 cc, 1700 cc, 1800 cc, 1900 cc, 2000 cc, 2200 cc, 2400 cc, 2600 cc, 2800 cc, 3000 cc, 3200 cc, 3400 cc, 3600 cc, 3800 cc, 4000 cc, 4200 cc, 4400 cc, 4600 cc, 4800 cc, 5000 cc, 5200 cc, 5400 cc, 5600 cc, 5800 cc, 6000 cc, 6200 cc, 6400 cc, 6600 cc, 6800 cc, 7000 cc, 7200 cc, 7400 cc, 7600 cc, 7800 cc, 8000 cc, 8200 cc, 8400 cc, 8600 cc, 8800 cc, 9000 cc, 9200 cc, 9400 cc, 9600 cc, 9800 cc, 10000 cc.

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FOUR WHEEL DRIVE

DISCOVERY 3.0 24V, 4 Dr, 1600 cc, 1700 cc, 1800 cc, 1900 cc, 2000 cc, 2200 cc, 2400 cc, 2600 cc, 2800 cc, 3000 cc, 3200 cc, 3400 cc, 3600 cc, 3800 cc, 4000 cc, 4200 cc, 4400 cc, 4600 cc, 4800 cc, 5000 cc, 5200 cc, 5400 cc, 5600 cc, 5800 cc, 6000 cc, 6200 cc, 6400 cc, 6600 cc, 6800 cc, 7000 cc, 7200 cc, 7400 cc, 7600 cc, 7800 cc, 8000 cc, 8200 cc, 8400 cc, 8600 cc, 8800 cc, 9000 cc, 9200 cc, 9400 cc, 9600 cc, 9800 cc, 10000 cc.

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PRELUDE 2.0 24V, 2 Dr, 1600 cc, 1700 cc, 1800 cc, 1900 cc, 2000 cc, 2200 cc, 2400 cc, 2600 cc, 2800 cc, 3000 cc, 3200 cc, 3400 cc, 3600 cc, 3800 cc, 4000 cc, 4200 cc, 4400 cc, 4600 cc, 4800 cc, 5000 cc, 5200 cc, 5400 cc, 5600 cc, 5800 cc, 6000 cc, 6200 cc, 6400 cc, 6600 cc, 6800 cc, 7000 cc, 7200 cc, 7400 cc, 7600 cc, 7800 cc, 8000 cc, 8200 cc, 8400 cc, 8600 cc, 8800 cc, 9000 cc, 9200 cc, 9400 cc, 9600 cc, 9800 cc, 10000 cc.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER

CONQUEST 4.0 24V, 2 Dr, 1600 cc, 1700 cc, 1800 cc, 1900 cc, 2000 cc, 2200 cc, 2400 cc, 2600 cc, 2800 cc, 3000 cc, 3200 cc, 3400 cc, 3600 cc, 3800 cc, 4000 cc, 4200 cc, 4400 cc, 4600 cc, 4800 cc, 5000 cc, 5200 cc, 5400 cc, 5600 cc, 5800 cc, 6000 cc, 6200 cc, 6400 cc, 6600 cc, 6800 cc, 7000 cc, 7200 cc, 7400 cc, 7600 cc, 7800 cc, 8000 cc, 8200 cc, 8400 cc, 8600 cc, 8800 cc, 9000 cc, 9200 cc, 9400 cc, 9600 cc, 9800 cc, 10000 cc.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER

CONQUEST 4.0 24V, 2 Dr, 1600 cc, 1700 cc, 1800 cc, 1900 cc, 2000 cc, 2200 cc, 2400 cc, 2600 cc, 2800 cc, 3000 cc, 3200 cc, 3400 cc, 3600 cc, 3800 cc, 4000 cc, 4200 cc, 4400 cc, 4600 cc, 4800 cc, 5000 cc, 5200 cc, 5400 cc, 5600 cc, 5800 cc, 6000 cc, 6200 cc, 6400 cc, 6600 cc, 6800 cc, 7000 cc, 7200 cc, 7400 cc, 7600 cc, 7800 cc, 8000 cc, 8200 cc, 8400 cc, 8600 cc, 8800 cc, 9000 cc, 9200 cc, 9400 cc, 9600 cc, 9800 cc, 10000 cc.

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LAND ROVER

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HONDA

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On the road in a 16-ton buggy

Helen Mound finds an unlikely trucking team: a mother and her 14-month-old daughter

It's 7am and the alarm clock has just woken trucker Julia Lennon, but it isn't time for a bacon buttie and a giant mug of sweet tea before hitting the road in her 16-ton Mercedes-Benz truck... it's breakfast-time for Abigail, her 14-month-old daughter.

A few wails and giggles later, Abigail is content and Julia can get on with her day's work as driver and joint-director of Moving Entertainment, her own transport firm that works for some of Britain's most famous television shows. Today's job is with TV stars, The Gladiators. "I got the travelling bug from my dad," says Julia, 38.

"He took me up and down the countryside on jobs when I was little. Immediately after my 17th birthday I got my driving licence and applied for van driving jobs."

"I got back on the road when Abigail was four months old and she's been a part of my working day ever since. She's much better off with me than left with a childminder."

Yet Julia is not really supposed to exist. Trucking is for men, beefy characters with baseball caps, CB radios, jeans that don't fit and deep voices, and big mugs of undrinkable tea that looks more like varnish. Julia, though, has regularly been the only girl in a 50-man crew on

month-long tours after 17 years' experience as a truck driver, travelling as far as Russia and Poland. Things weren't so pleasant in 1977 when she got her Heavy Goods Vehicle licence and began applying for driving jobs. "I was either laughed at or had the phone slammed down on me. You need lots of stamina, and as a lady trucker you need to be able to ignore sexist remarks or be prepared to put up a fight."

She first encountered trouble when she was 21 and working as a receptionist for a truck rental company. "The only way for me to get work with trucks was to start in administration, and eventual-

ly I was asked to drive. Surprisingly, it was the female staff who caused the problem. They thought my place was in the office.

"For a while, I worked for a

provincial firm and all the drivers were sheltered country-boys. They gave me a hard time for being a Londoner and a woman."

Julia recalled having her

truck tampered with, being sent to Coventry and constantly being mocked and insulted by her male colleagues.

She soon learned how to repair the old truck she was

given, as it broke down regularly. Her only comfort was occasionally having her husband, Chris, around. She met him on the road 10 years ago.

"It's funny, I spent part of my teens in the Isle of Wight and I always knew I would travel for a living. When we moved back to London, I'd decided I was going to be a model. I even went to modelling school. I couldn't have ended up further away from that profession."

Her first big tour was with Queen and she's delivered equipment for top names such as Fleetwood Mac, Chris de Burgh and Wet, Wet, Wet. She's seen plenty of excitement: "I was one of the drivers that took Bon Jovi to Russia for the first heavy metal show in Moscow."

She also gets the chance to handle some of the equipment she delivers. "I've climbed the cheese-wire ladders above a stage and done spotlights for some concerts."

Once I had to follow Marti Feltow, from Wet, Wet, Wet, with a spot and he kept jumping about. I had a terrible time keeping up with him."

"I have also cooked by the

side of the road and slept in the bunk of my cab, but as a rule rock and roll crews are fairly spoiled. I remember doing a double-drive from Stockholm to Paris for Alice Cooper - one driver sleeps while the other drives - and the wheels kept turning for 26 hours. I flew Club Class with another driver, and on the return flight from Paris, a passenger told us: we were in the wrong place and to move along. I suppose we did look out of place!"

Today, Julia's life is quieter. "I don't go on long trips, although I do travel overnight occasionally. I avoid taking Abigail on jobs between 9pm and 7am, but otherwise she travels with me. Her baby seat fits in the bunk, she can see everything."

"I don't miss doing long-haul jobs. Women still have to scurry in and out of men's toilets in Europe because there are few ladies' facilities. We have to sit for a single cabin on cross-Channel ferries. A lot of firms have woken up to the value of female drivers, but there's still a breed of old boys that make it difficult."

DR DASHBOARD

Follow the green route for 4x4s

Q After all the gibes that 4x4 drivers never so much as get their wheels dirty by going off-road, why all the fuss that people are driving in the countryside on ground their vehicles were designed for?

A Because of the mess they leave behind. Some of the tracks have been there for hundreds of years and are enjoyed by keen ramblers and families out on picnics. Now some tracks are little more than a quagmire.

Q Surely vehicles cannot do that much damage, particularly on paths used by horses?

A They do, particularly after rain or snow when the huge tyres can churn a pleasant path into a mudbath. The deep gouges can scar a path for years. The vehicles high sides catch and break tree branches and then there is the noise and engine fumes, which nobody enjoys. People who wanted to hear and smell big vehicles could sit by a motorway for fun, instead of trying to ramble quietly down a country lane.

Q So does that mean that after investing all that money on a 4x4, we have to stick to the road?

A No. There are plenty of areas where off-roads are welcomed, you just have to find out where they are. There are lots of schools around the country that have special tracks and manufacturers run outings. Land Rover, for example, has a 25-acre jungle track where EIS2 buys a day's tuition and access to the huge course and it is putting together package holidays for off-road enthusiasts so they can enjoy their machines but leave the countryside intact. Talk to your dealer, or check one of the specialist 4x4 magazines where good courses are often advertised.

Q Is there anything we can do to enjoy off-road driving but protect the environment?

A Absolutely. It seems obvious to say you should take care, but take care. First, check you have right of way, because not all green lanes offer access to cars, and make sure you follow the simple rules of the countryside, such as always shutting gates behind you and taking care when passing horses or live-

stock. Also, keep your speed down, to cut noise and exhaust emissions. Be extra careful in spring and early summer, when animals rear their young and don't particularly want to be disturbed by some hulking great machine roaring past the end of their nests and burrows.

Q Perhaps it would be better to get off the track and on to open fields then?

A Don't think so. Keep to the track and don't be tempted to start wandering about in fields because you could damage valuable crops or disturb animals. And forget all those exotic images of wind-in-the-hair driving about leaving lovely tyre marks on your local beach. Driving on a beach without permission is a criminal offence, as it is on dunes, open moorland, commons, parks and farmland. So be sure before you engage low gear and set off... otherwise you could be driving to jail without passing go.

Q Is that all we need to know to stay out of trouble?

A Not entirely. Toyota says you should remember the four "Ws" whenever you go off road: weather (don't go out when there has been heavy rain or snow because it will ruin the track); weight (4x4s are heavy, so check the track and bridges can take the best part of two tonnes); width (4x4s can be 6ft wide, so check you can pass without damage to shrubs and trees); and winches (only to be used in emergencies).

Q After that long list, everything should be perfect for a weekend run on rugged terrain.

A Almost. Are you able to drive off-road? It is one thing cruising city streets but quite another to handle a big machine once it starts to dive into mud, water and sand.

Q Surely it can't be that difficult?

A It isn't until the first time the wheels spin and you discover you are trapped in 2ft of dirt, wearing castmire trousers and Italian loafers. Get training on tackling rough terrain, buy the right gear, such as the mandatory green wellies, and prepare to get that neat paintwork dirty for once... very dirty.

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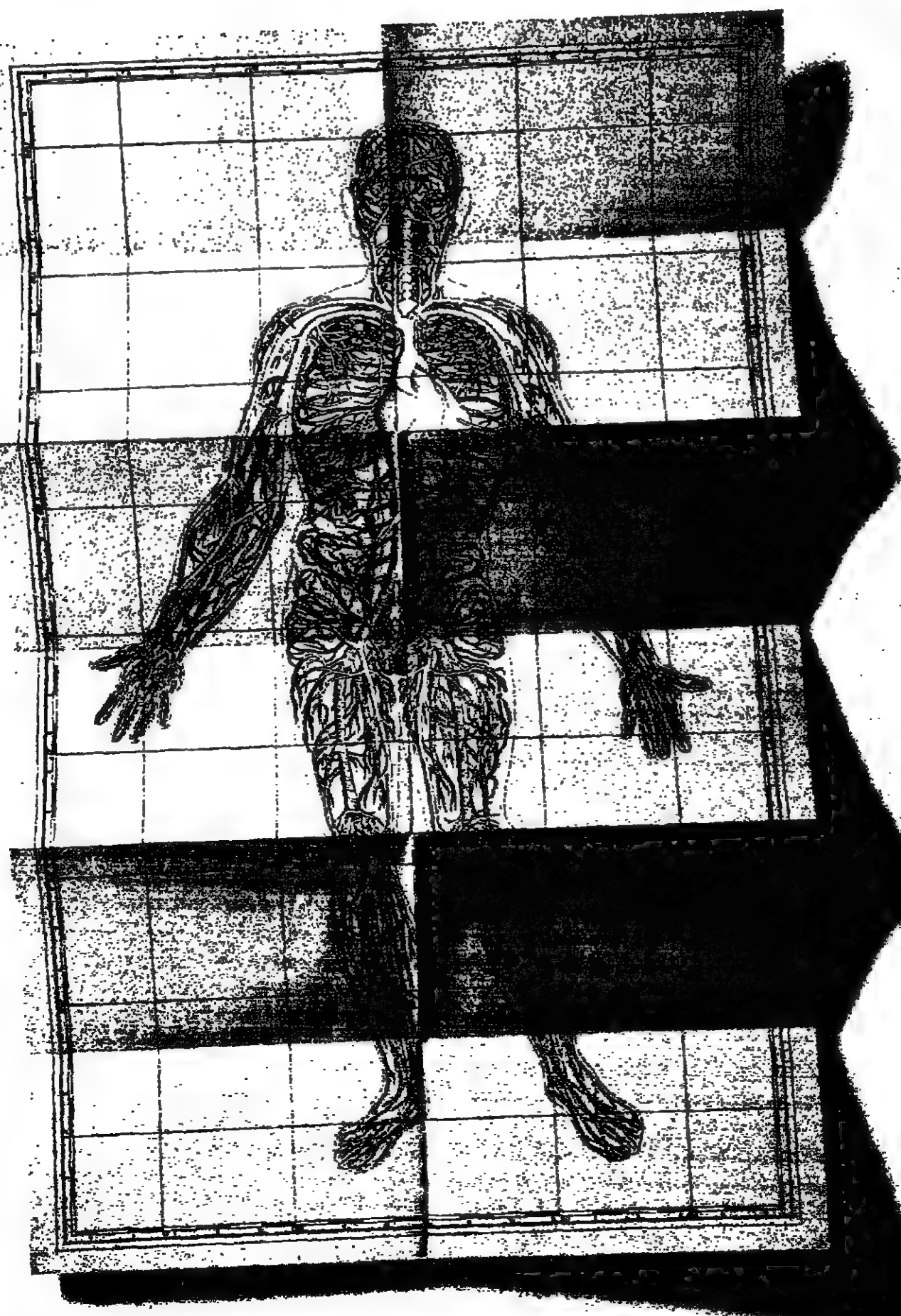
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Planning an evening out, or a day with your family? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

FILMS

Geoff Brown

BEFORE SUNRISE (15): A mainstream film consisting largely of two people walking and talking is a risky enterprise, but Richard Linklater almost meets the challenge in this lovely chamber piece set in Vienna. A wandering American, Ethan Hawke, invites a French student, Julie Delpy, to join him exploring the city and, of course, each other. Nothing in Linklater's past portraits of American youth, *Slacker* and *Dazed and Confused*, suggested he could delve deep into characters and make them more than mouthpieces for off-beat remarks. Yet, helped by Hawke and Delpy's natural performances, he does so with ease, crafting a film as humane and tender as they come in this blood-spattered age. Odeon West End (01426-915 574).

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN (18): Roman Polanski buckles down to the task of adapting Ariel Dorfman's play about a torture victim in South America subjecting her possible torturer to a mock trial. Sigourney Weaver, forever terse, is commanding as the vengeful Paulina. As the targeted doctor, Ben Kingsley mixes arrogance, reason and guile, while Stuart Wilson grows in strength as the cautious husband. But without the electricity of a live performance or a bolder, more personal, directorial approach, Dorfman's material remains rigid and humourless: a debate with clever speeches, not a drama with people. Barbican (0171-638 8891); Curzon West End (0171-369 1722); Screen/Hill (0171-435 3366).

More films, page 6.

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE: Could Bernard Hill be our theatre's most neglected actor? Certainly, he brings inarticulate rage, grief, menace and power to the role of Arthur Miller's longshoreman, in love with his niece and not quite realising it. With Charlotte Cornwell and Joseph Flennes in support, David Thacker's revival should keep you on tenterhooks. Strand, Aldwych, London WC2 (0171-930 8800). Evenings: Tues to Sat, 7.45pm; matinees: Thurs and Sat, 2pm; Sunday, 3pm.

THE DUCHESSE OF MALFI: Philip Frankel's production might be more mindful of T.S. Eliot's remark that Webster "saw the skull beneath the skin". But his less than horrifying production still offers the superb Juliet Stevenson — exuding joy and pain — displaying courage in adversity, plus a love of risk ignored by most actresses playing the doomed duchess. Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (0171-369 1746). Evenings: Tues to Sat, 7.30pm; matinees: Wed and Sat, 3pm.

More theatre, page 6.

DANCE

John Percival

ROYAL BALLET: Three new productions have joined the Covent Garden repertoire. Frederick Ashton's *Rhapsody*, to Rachmaninov's Variations on a theme of Paganini, is revived with new designs by Patrick Caulfield. On the same bill is a work created for the Royal Ballet by William Forsythe, together with the British premiere of his *Sleepers*. These works should suit the company, even if the remaining piece on the programme, Glen Tetley's *La Ronde*, to music by Eric Korngold, was thought less convincing when first given here in 1993.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-304 4000). Thurs 7.30pm; Sat 2.30pm and 7pm; May 8, 10, 12, 7.30pm. **ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET:** The choreographer Mauro Biondini has created another work for the company, following the success of his *X.N.Tricities* last year. *Symphonic Dances*, to Rachmaninov's music, premieres at Crewe in a programme also including *Square Dance*, Balanchine's virtuosic reinterpretation of American tradition into classicism (music by Vivaldi and Corelli), and a revival of David Lichine's comedy, *Graduation Ball*, to a score drawn from Johann Strauss.

Lyceum Theatre, Crewe (01270 537333). Tues 25, 7.30pm; Wed 26, 2pm and 7.30pm; Thurs 28, Barrow-in-Furness (01229 820000); Fri 28, 7.30pm; Sat 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm; then at Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells (01892 530613). May 2 and 3: Queens Theatre, Barnstaple (01271 24242). May 4 and 6: Corn Exchange, Cambridge (01223 357851). May 15 and 16.

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

OPEN HOUSE: A festive spirit prevails at Kettle's Yard in Cambridge, celebrating the centenary of its founder Jim Ede. He restored the old house, built up the collection of modern masters and then



Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy explore the city of Vienna, and each other, in Richard Linklater's tender film, *Before Sunrise*

gave it all to the university. Since his death, the temporary exhibition space has been extended. It now houses a choice selection of the work by Hepworth, Nicholson, Brancusi and other artists whom Ede befriended in the 1920s. They look very handsome there, and a group of invited artists have invaded the house with their responses to the bleached spaces. Some, like Richard Deacon, Tim Head and Richard Wentworth, are openly irreverent. Others, including Michael Craig-Martin, transform their rooms. But Catherine Yass pays open homage to a Hepworth sculpture, and enhances the pleasure which Ede's collection continues to provide. Kettle's Yard, Kettle Street, Cambridge (01223 352124), until May 8.

WILLEM DE KOONING: Now a victim of Alzheimer's disease, de Kooning is the last survivor from the great age of postwar American painting. With Jackson Pollock, he epitomised New York art's ability to dominate the international stage. The Tate Gallery is now hosting a grand retrospective of de Kooning's career. Spanning half a century, it shows the Dutch-born painter starting as a hesitant, surprisingly linear artist. Only in the late 1940s does he develop the flamboyant love of paint which typifies his

mature work. De Kooning's series of *Woman* paintings could hardly be more rumbustious, and his landscapes are often charged with a wild vitality. The energy comes to a climax in 1977, but the subsequent years witness a sad, slow decline. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (0171-887 8000), until May 7.

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

CATCHING THE EYE: Richard Bird, one of the most prominent image-makers of the 1970s and 1980s, died in 1993 at the age of 44. Much of his most memorable work was for the National Theatre. He designed many of the theatre's most striking posters and programmes, in a forceful but economical graphic style with bold use of simple forms against more complex and highly coloured backgrounds. This retrospective covers the whole range of his work. National Theatre, Lobby Galleries, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-633 0830) Mon-Sat, 10am-11pm, until May 6.

STAMPS OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR: It is not generally realised in Britain that the American Civil War and its divisions were clearly reflected in the still-developing postal services of the United States. United no longer, the rival governments issued their own stamps; while the Union continued as before, the Confederacy set up its own independent post office with its own stamps — some printed in London in 1862 by De La Rue and imported in defiance of the Union blockade. Before the Confederacy was set up, individual postmasters issued their own provisional stamps, generously represented in this show drawn from the British Library's philatelic collections, along with such Union specials as the grey-black images of Lincoln in 1860 after his assassination. British Library Exhibition Galleries, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (0171-412 7111), Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2.30-5pm, until Sep 22.

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

UN BALLO IN MASCHERA: The Great Favourite Show is a misnomer — it is two levels. First, simply as a happening: he is a star; he is here, and his voice and personality are unique. But he is also nearly 60, and for opera-buffs

there is the fascination of seeing how he gets through one of the most testing tenor roles in the repertory: the fact that you can scarcely see the joints bears witness to a triumph of sheer technique. But it is not just a one-man show. Lillian Watson's pageboy reminds you why the whole travesty tradition was so popular: the looks (and sounds) scrumptious. Deborah Voigt is the spirited heroine, and Sir Edward Downes proves the wisest of ringmasters in the pit. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), Fri 28, 7.30pm.

COSE FAN TUTTE: One of English National Opera's happiest offerings, Nicolette Molnar's production is funny without being vulgar, and Nicholas Kok conducts with the lightest of touches. The young cast is led by Rita Cullis's brilliantly sung Fiordiligi — if she changed her name to Rita Coglioli she would probably have a huge international career — and Charles Workman's easy Ferrando. Sara Fulgoni, who by chance does have an Italian name, is the sexy Dorabella. The evening sips along unpretentious, fresh, a really fun evening out. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8300), Wed 26, Fri 28, 7.30pm.

Clive Davis

BUDDY GRECO/TUCK AND PATTI: Just as Tony Bennett has suddenly come back into fashion after years on the twin-set, middle-of-the-road circuit, so Buddy Greco is enjoying a new burst of popularity by returning to basics as a jazz-inspired pianist and singer. His previous run at the Green Room turned into something of a hipster's convention by all accounts. When Tuck and Patti were last in town, Cyndi Lauper leapt on to the stage of the Jazz Café for an impromptu duet with Patti Cathcart in *Time After Time*. Still something of a cult act, Cathcart and Tuck Andress are an unclassifiable pop/soul/jazz double-act who initially took their inspiration from Ella Fitzgerald's albums with guitarist Joe Pass. Greco: Cafe Royal, Regent St, London W1 (0171-437 9090), Tue 25 to Sat, May 13 (no performances Sun or Mon), 9.15pm. Tuck and Patti: Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 8800), Thurs 27, 7.45pm.

GEORGE GRUNTZ: As a change from the usual programme of American and Latin stars, Euro-jazz comes to Ronnie Scott's this week in the shape of the George Gruntz Concert Jazz Orchestra. Rarely spotted in this country, Gruntz is a scholarly pianist and composer from Switzerland, whose compositions have included jazzed-up suites and oratorios. It was his band that performed the vintage Gil Evans settings on Miles Davis's valedictory album, recorded at the Montreux Festival in 1991. Ronnie Scott's, Fri 28, London W1 (0171-439 0747), Mon 24 to Sat 29, support set from 9.30pm.

Richard Morrison

FAURE FESTIVAL: Gabriel Faure, he of the Requiem, was born 150 years ago, and the resourceful and talented pianist Kathryn Stott has organised a superb fortnight-long festival in his honour in Manchester. She features in many of the concerts, including Monday's opener (Free Trade Hall, 7.30pm). Others taking part include Yo-Yo Ma, the BBC Philharmonic, the Nash Ensemble, Della Jones and the Labèque sisters. Faure's music is put in the context of his contemporaries and compatriots, including Saint-Saëns, Debussy, Ravel, and Franck. Free Trade Hall and Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester (0161-273 4504), Apr 24 to May 6.

PART WORK: In London, another festival focuses on a composer. Arvo Pärt: *Emerging Light* presents music by the minimalist and intensely mystic Estonian, including several recent works new to this country. Judasposed with Pärt's music are pieces by other contemporary composers from the Baltic states, including the much-rated young Estonian, former rock musician Erkki-Sven Tüür. Note, particularly, the concert by the stunning Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir (May 4-5), which sings music by Estonian's "Vaughan Williams", Veljo Tormis, who has based his own music on Estonia's almost extinct folk song tradition. South Bank Centre, London SE1 (0171-928 8800), Apr 22 to May 12.

David Sinclair

HOLE: Say of her what you will, Courtney Love has weathered storms that would have sunk all but the most resilient of performers in the year since the deaths of her husband, Kurt Cobain, and his previous bass player, Kristen Pfaff. Yet Love and her long-haired band are currently enjoying renewed critical acclaim and their biggest hits so far with the barrowing single, *Doll Parts*, and the re-released album *Live Through This*. Virgin Megastore, Oxford Street, London WC1 (0171-631 1234), Apr 26, short set at 6pm followed by album signing; free, Wolverhampton Civic Hall (01902 312030), Apr 27; Octagon Centre, Sheffield (0114 2733300), Apr 29; Manchester Academy (0161-832 1111), Apr 30; Barrowlands, Glasgow (0141-552 4601), May 1; Rock City, Nottingham (01602 433450), May 3; Brixton Academy, London SW9 (0171-924 9999), May 4; Shepherd's Bush Empire, London W12 (0171-740 7474), May 10.

LITTLE AXE: The band, led by veteran session guitarist Skip McDonald, has made a sizeable splash this year with their debut album, *The House That Wolf Built*. Their music is a strange concoction — a mixture of delta roots music with spacey wedges of reggae and hip hop beats. Always a good groove but don't expect any choruses or tunes. Leadmill, Sheffield (0114 2754500), Apr 24; King Tut's Wah Wah Hut, Glasgow (0141-221 5279), Apr 25; Sankey's Soap, Manchester (0161-237 5060), Apr 26; Bottom Line, London W12 (0181-740 1304), Apr 28; Mosley Dance Centre, Birmingham (0121-449 0779), Apr 29; Trinity Centre, Bristol (0117 955-1318), Apr 30.

LONDON

Take Your Parents on a Bike Ride: Bring your own cycles or hire them. Lee Valley Cycle Circuit, Temple Mills Lane, E15 (0181-534 6085). Today from 8am-7pm. Adults £1.20 (plus £4 to hire bike), children 90p (plus £3 to hire).

Shadow Puppets and Rhymes in Figgie Hobbs: A show based on Charles Causley's poems. Suitable for age 6 and over. Polka Theatre for Children, 240 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 (0181-543 4828). Today, 2pm and 5pm. Tickets £5.

1995 Festival of Model Towns: Watch modelling demonstrations and see working models in action. Kew Bridge Steam Museum, Green Dragon Lane, Brentford (0181-568 4757). Today and tomorrow 11am. Adults £3.25, children £1.80.

BEDFORDSHIRE

Meet the Clown Show: Tractor, trailer and pony rides, and children's farm. Woodside Farm, Mancroft Road, Slip End, Luton (01582 841044). Today, noon. Adults £1.60, children £1.20.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Beaconsfield: "The oldest model village in the world" where time has stood still for 60 years. Warwick Road, Beaconsfield (01494 67929). Today, tomorrow and daily until October, from 10am-5pm. Adults £3, children £1.50.

COUNTY DUREM

Lambling Time: Watch per lambs being bottle-fed and see the recently hatched chicks. Hall Farm, Lanchester, Durham (01888 730300). Tomorrow, 11am. Adults £2.75, children £1.50. Under-16s free. Family ticket (two adults and two children) £7.

CUMBERLAND

Stringing, music and craft workshops at the North Pennines String Festival: Various workshops in the North Pennines. Tel: 01424 381806. Today until May 6. Times and prices vary.

HERTFORDSHIRE

The Home Front: Find out what it was like to live through the Second World War. The Museum of St Albans, Hatfield Road, St Albans (01727 819340). Today, 10am-5pm; tomorrow, 2pm-5pm; every day until July 31. Admission free.

OXFORDSHIRE

Peter Pan: With Toyah Wilcox and Frank Finlay wreaking magic and chaos on stage. Apollo Theatre, George Street, Oxford (01865 244544). Tues 25 to Sat 29: Times vary. Adults and children from £5.

Fox Fair: South Park, Oxford. (No telephone number). Today, 2pm.

SCOTLAND

The Official Loch Ness Monster Exhibition: Look at the models which suggest it really does exist. Drumadrochit, Inverness-shire (01456 450579). Today and tomorrow, 9.30am (and daily). Adults £4, children £2.50, under-16s free.

See a life-size model of the Loch Ness monster.

SURREY

Thorpe Park: Theme rides plus competition with mountain bikes as prizes. Thorpe Park, Staines Road, Chertsey (01932 562633). Open daily, 10am (competition runs until May 22). Adults £13.25, children £11.25, family ticket £40. Children under one metre free.

WALES

Let off steam at the Energy Zone Activity Park: also underground tours of the mine. Rhondda Heritage Park, Lewis Merthyr, Coedcae Road, Trehafod (01443 682036). Open daily, 10am-4.30pm. Adults £4.95, children £4.25.

JANE BIDDER

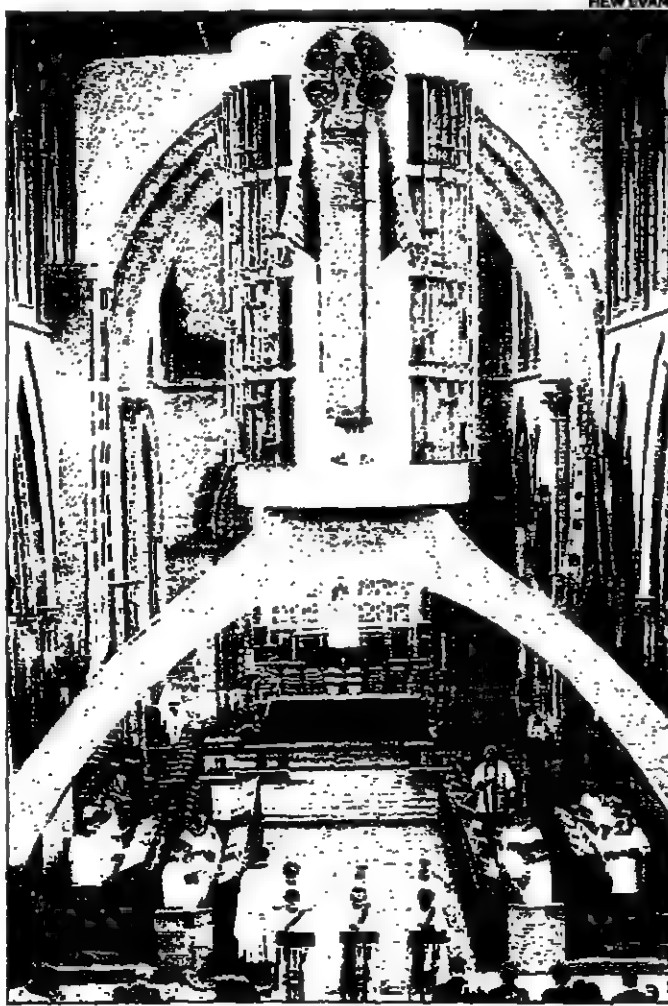
Ruth Gledhill worshipped at Llandaff Cathedral and parish church in Cardiff

AT YOUR SERVICE



UNLIKE many cathedrals, whose exterior beauty is little changed over the centuries but is sullied by the hideous modern developments which surround them, Llandaff Cathedral has been repeatedly damaged and restored but remains exquisite and stands in a perfect setting. The cathedral barely survived the Dissolution and the Second World War. It lost its endowments in the Tudor period, and Oliver Cromwell, after the Reformation, set up an ale house and post office inside it, and used the font as a pig trough. One tower collapsed in 18th-century storms, and, in 1717, it was described in a survey as "the poor desolate church of Llandaff".

It is inside that, like so many historic buildings, Llandaff bears the marks of its troubles and triumphs in the shape of the work that ensued. Where once a visitor's gaze might on entry have been drawn to a stone screen, or instantly have passed the perpendicular arches of the nave to the sanctuary and high altar beyond, it is now arrested by the *Majestas*, an aluminium sculpture by Sir Jacob Epstein, which has aroused controversy since it was placed in the cathedral on top of its reinforced concrete podium in 1957. "A lot of people don't like it and a lot of people do. There is no halfway house," said the Dean, the Very Rev John Rogers. "Some people like the sculpture but they don't like the pulpitum, the supporting structure." This was my own reaction. In most medieval churches, the pulpitum is a stone screen which divides the monks' choir from the rest of the building. Here it is a reinforced concrete arch that would look better at Spaghetti Junction than amid medieval stone, albeit beneath a 20th-century hardwood, paneled ceiling. The sculpture itself is startling. It stands at the front of a cylindrical concrete organ case which is decorated by gilded figures which were on the chapter stalls before the cathedral was devastated by a landmine in 1941. Our celebrant was the Rev Jonathan Redvers Harris who, as successor, is in charge of the music and is assistant curate of the parish. He is deputy to the precentor, Canon Mervyn Davies,



Sir Jacob Epstein's sculpture, *Majestas*, on a concrete pulpitum

who is a parish priest elsewhere. Because Llandaff is both parish church and cathedral, it has two of everything. For our service the voluntary cathedral parish choir sang, as they do twice every Sunday and some weekdays. During termtimes, the cathedral enjoys the luxury of 30 choristers from the Choir School. Mr Redvers Harris was assisted by the Rev Nicholas Court, priest vicar of the cathedral.

Because the Church in Wales was disestablished and partly disendowed in 1923, cathedrals such as Llandaff no longer have the luxury of a large income from investments and depend on the collection plate. The parish, with 700 on the electoral roll, effectively pays for the cathedral, which costs £250,000 a year to run. "It is through the generosity of the people that we are flourishing now," said the Dean, who doubles

up as vicar, and chairs both the cathedral chapter of 14 canons which runs the cathedral and the parochial church council, which runs the parish. To confuse matters further, all the canons are parish priests elsewhere. Before the war the cathedral had a dean and a vicar, and a legacy from those days is the tradition of dual services. Our parish eucharist was followed by the cathedral's own sung eucharist.

In our Old Testament reading, from Zechariah, we heard: "As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your captives free from the waterless pit." Our Gospel reading, from Matthew, contained one of the most inapplicable of all Bible texts, when Christ on the Cross cries out, *Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani*, or: "My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?" In his sermon, which was necessarily

brief because of the lengthy Palm Sunday procession through the surrounding narrow lanes, Mr Redvers Harris called us to penitence. "We ourselves have had a hand in nailing Him to that Cross," he said. "His being battered, His being denied and mocked and jeered, are all things that were not events 2,000 years ago, but things we have participated in in our own lives."

"We are but dust. It is enough to drive us to contrition and to penitence. Remember that thou art dust, and to dust we shall return." We came to greet the King "who came to die for us and to die because of us," but "we also greet the King who came to rise for us and to ascend to the highest heaven, the King who invites us beyond to reign with him on high."

After all this, I badly needed a cup of tea. We sat in the spring sunshine in the churchyard listening to the new £50,000 peal of 13 bells cast and hung in a metal frame by the Whitechapel Bellfoundry in 1992. Each bell is named after a Celtic saint, with the tenor carrying the name of Teilo, the 6th-century abbot-bishop who founded Llandaff monastery, and the treble named after Bridget, the Irish saint known for mercy and pity for the poor.

Llandaff Cathedral, Llandaff, Cardiff. CF5 2YF. Tel: 01222 561515.

DEAN: The Very Rev John Rogers.

ARCHITECTURE: Founded 14 centuries ago on the River Taff, today's elegant building is late-13th century, altered over the centuries by repeated but essential restorations. ****

SERMON: Brief homily on the meaning of the Cross today. ***

LITURGY: Superbly executed liturgy from Church in Wales Book of Common Prayer. ****

MUSIC: Thunderous organ and voluntary parish choir, which led us in traditional hymns. ****

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Coffee, tea and plain biscuits in Prebendal House. ***

SPIRITUAL HIGH: As the cathedral has been so often battered down and then rebuilt, worship here is at once chastening and uplifting. *****

* stars are awarded to a maximum of five.

COVER STORY

3

continued from page 1
both ways: girls get a chance to find a career that might suit them, and male-dominated industries in particular get a chance to encourage girls who might not normally consider anything other than jobs women have traditionally done. For instance, a representative body for the engineering industry, the Engineering Training Authority (ETA), has seized on 'Take Your Daughters To Work Day' as an opportunity to bolster the number of female engineering workers — which has dropped by a third since 1990. It has asked the 20,000 manufacturing plants it represents — which together employ 1.8 million people — to encourage as many of their workers as possible to bring their daughters to work.

Greg Parston, one of the trustees of Our Daughters, says: "We all have a responsibility to raise our consciousness about what all children can do." But he admits the day has its critics. People have written to the trustees arguing that the day is sexist. What about the boys, the letters ask.

Yet boys and girls are treated differently every day. It is well known that teachers pay more attention to boys because they tend to be more demanding. Boys are more likely to shout "Me first!" and get to the head of the queue for the computer or the lathe than girls. Surely, if girls are given priority for just one day out of the year, boys will stand aside.



The Bishop of Wakefield with his daughter, Kay, who says: "Being a bishop is an interesting job — it is not just about going to church."

Name: Kay McCulloch
Age: 19
Taken to work by: The Bishop of Wakefield, the Right Rev Nigel McCulloch

WE MET the archdeacon and my dad's chaplain for morning prayers at about 7.30am. We had breakfast and then they had a discussion about appointments in the diocese. Dad got about 40 letters and had replied to most of them before an interview on the new Marriage Act for the radio at 11am.

As the Chairman of the Church of England Communications he also had to go through the day's newspaper cuttings. We had lunch with a priest and his wife.

At 2.30pm dad and I arrived at St Mary's school. In the playground, all the children rushed over to us and sent us flying. The teachers were pleased that the children gave me a bunch of daffodils — until they realised that they'd been picked from the school's special flower bed. We then went on to the hospice, where dad talked to patients.

We then visited the National Coal Mining Museum because dad has been supporting the miners. After supper dad consecrated a new church in Wakefield. We went home at about 10.30pm.

Being a bishop is an interesting job as it has so many sides to it — it's not just about going to church. It also involves a great deal of pastoral work — visiting and talking to a vast variety of people.



Philippa Clarke and father

Name: Philippa Clarke
Age: 17
Taken to work by: Rear-Admiral John Clarke, Flag Officer Training and Recruiting

MY father and I were driven to work at 8am. It was straight down to work for dad. His out-tray contained nothing, whereas his in-tray seemed to be overflowing.

At about 9am people started to arrive in the office. They all sat down around the conference table and discussed recruiting and training matters. The next thing we did was to go over to HMS Sultan as my father was attending a briefing. When we got back to the office, dad's in-tray was as full as it had been first thing in the morning. I decided to leave dad to his work.

The main thing I learnt is why dad is always so tired. He works too hard.



Jonathan Dimbleby



Daughter Kitty

Name: Kitty Dimbleby
Age: 16
Taken to work by: Jonathan Dimbleby, broadcaster

I ARRIVED at Broadcasting House to watch my father do the last three minutes of his hectic live Radio 4 show, *Any Answers*. Then we were off in a chauffeur-driven car to the LWT studios where I was introduced to his co-workers, one of whom was playing football "to relieve stress", he said. Last week the football went through a window.

The next day's interview with the Foreign Secretary was discussed and points put forward, while an eye was kept on the *Cosmos* news, should any political change occur to affect the programme.

At 3.45pm there was the highly important job of watching the Grand National. My father bet on Party Politics, which came second. After this there was a lull in activity while my father began to finalise the interview. At 8pm everyone sat down to watch the National Lottery. After that dad and I returned home — me to bed, but dad to stay up until midnight reading the Sunday papers.

Next morning we were in the studio by 8am. Dad was working on his introduction. There was a meeting to check the news and to "practice" the interview. By this point everyone was getting nervous. My father was very quiet.

The audience came into the studio and were briefed. Dad talked to Douglas Hurd about the forthcoming interview while they both had their make up done. We were now only ten minutes away from the show. I could see and hear dad on the many television screens in front of us, and also talk to him at the flick of a switch.

Afterwards, in the hospitality room, I asked Douglas Hurd why politicians bothered to go on programmes such as these. He told me: "It's part of the basic instinct to communicate," and that sums up the whole point of political television. I realised the importance of my dad's job that had previously meant as much to me as the National Lottery. The experience made me more enthusiastic about his job, but I am also interested in writing fiction and reporting on social issues.

Name: Katie Waldegrave
Age: 14
Taken to work by: William Waldegrave, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

I WENT into my father's office at about 9am and I was shown around and introduced to all the people who work there. I was shown how the work is processed through to him.

Then we went on to visit an environmentally-friendly farm, and we were given a tour and lunch and the basic principles of the farm were explained to us.

We had to leave early because Sir Teddy Taylor wanted to ask about the Canadian fish and there was a special briefing session before, and dad went to answer questions in the Commons.

While I was waiting for him to speak I heard some of the Prime Minister's Questions. I sat in the gallery. Then we went back to the office and I was shown some of the letters and invitations and we on that he receives.

I think dad has a good job. The best bits were going to the farm and watching the House of Commons.

I do not really have an ambition, although I would like to be a lawyer or an actress if I were good enough. I do not want to be a politician, and although I had an interesting day this opinion has not changed.



William and Katie Waldegrave, with a red box

Name: Jane Collingwood
Age: 15
Taken to work by: Judy Bennett, (Shula Hebdon in *The Archers*)

AFTER I had sat and chatted to the members of the *Archers* cast with my mother in the "green room", the director of the episode, Alec Reid, strolled in and called everyone into the read-through.

This started at 11.15am and was a chance for the director to inform the actors of various script changes so that it could be timed in order to get a rough idea of the length of the episode. I sat with Jane Robinson, the radio production assistant. Then we all went into the studio to record the first scene and I went into the control cubicle with Alec Reid.

They have a very strict timing regime — two and a quarter hours to record six to eight scenes, and six days for 20 episodes. There is no time for mistakes.

Later I had to help Niall Gault with the spot effects. This involved pouring cups of tea, crunching gravel, crowd scenes, and clattering things in the kitchen.

Wanting to be an actress myself made the whole day more interesting as I could watch all the different techniques and characters brought out by each actor. I look forward to hopefully working there one day.



Jane Collingwood



Amy Browne with Primrose Cumming: "The lady that mummy was photographing was a famous writer"

Name: Amy Browne
Age: 8
Taken to work by: Jennifer Beeston, photojournalist

I WENT with my mummy all the way from London to Sussex to photograph a writer for a magazine called *Seag*. The first thing that we did was to sit in the house with the lady sitting at her table pretending to do writing on her typewriter, but she wasn't really doing anything at all.

Mummy was very fussy, saying, "Can you move your chair a bit more to the left. Look up at me, that's perfect. Yes, that's brilliant" and then taking about 3,000 pictures.

Then afterwards we went into the garden, where I was holding a gold sun-reflector which changed the light on the lady's face from white to gold. She was pretending to do gardening, and pushing a wheelbarrow about.

The lady that mummy was photographing was a famous writer who used to write stories about ponies. Her name was Primrose. I thought it was good fun meeting her and I liked her a lot because she was very kind.

The next thing that we went to see were her two horses. She actually keeps them in a field quite a long way from her

house. They were both brown. The bigger one was called David and the smaller one was called Magnolia. We put the reins on Magnolia, and when we were doing the pictures David tried to pull the reins off Magnolia and tried to bite Primrose for a carrot. I stayed with Magnolia because Primrose said that David was a bit clumsy and sometimes

turns around and knocks you right over.

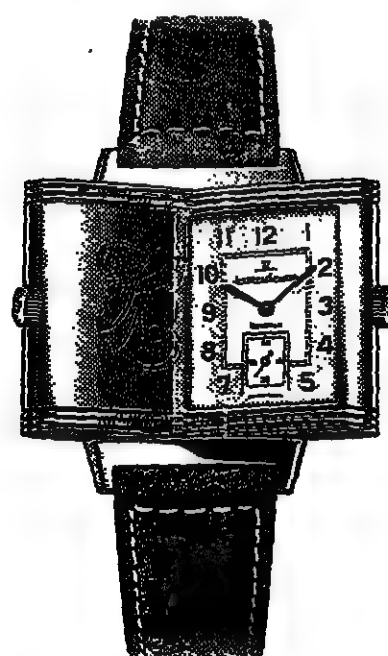
I think my mummy has a very good job because she seems to work very hard, although I don't really like the job very much. The best bit of the day was when we went to see the horses.

What I did not like at all was when my mummy started fussing me around saying,

"Amy don't do that. Come and stand here", and then about five seconds later she says, "Go, and stand over there", and gives me her heavy bag with lots and lots of her cameras in it to put in the boot of the car.

When I grow up I want to be an artist and a part-time writer because those are the things I like doing best.

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How to join in

Take Our Daughters to Work Day started three years ago in America. In Britain it is run by the charity Our Daughters. It is a national day designed to give girls aged between 11 and 15 first-hand experience of a broad range of workplaces. For further details contact Raina Sheridan, Project Co-ordinator, on 0171-402 5363.

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

SOUTH BANK

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

22 Apr 7.30pm
Lazarus: Benjamin International Piano Series. Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 5. Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 1. Prokofiev: Piano Concerto No. 3. Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 1. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 5. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 6. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 7. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 8. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 9. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 10. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 11. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 12. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 13. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 14. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 15. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 16. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 17. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 18. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 19. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 20. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 21. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 22. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 23. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 24. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 25. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 26. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 27. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 28. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 29. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 30. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 31. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 32. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 33. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 34. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 35. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 36. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 37. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 38. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 39. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 40. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 41. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 42. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 43. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 44. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 45. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 46. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 47. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 48. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 49. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 50. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 51. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 52. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 53. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 54. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 55. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 56. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 57. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 58. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 59. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 60. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 61. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 62. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 63. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 64. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 65. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 66. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 67. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 68. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 69. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 70. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 71. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 72. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 73. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 74. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 75. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 76. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 77. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 78. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 79. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 80. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 81. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 82. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 83. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 84. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 85. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 86. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 87. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 88. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 89. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 90. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 91. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 92. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 93. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 94. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 95. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 96. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 97. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 98. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 99. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 100.

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22 May - 27 August 1995

Personal booking 26 April. Telephone booking 27 April

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Some tickets available most performances

The Makropulos Case, Don Giovanni

Some tickets available August dates

Ermione, La clemenza di Tito, The Queen of Spades

Standing room only. Possible returned seats at short notice.

The London Philharmonic Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

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Some tickets available August dates

Ermione, La clemenza di Tito, The Queen of Spades

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Isaac Stern's 75th year

Wednesday 3 May 7.30pm

English Chamber Orchestra

Isaac Stern violin

Paul Barritt director

Works by Bach, Mozart, Stravinsky, Tchaikovsky.

Celebrity Recital

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Yefim Bronfman piano

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ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Sun 7 May 7.30pm

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VE DAY GALA

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Richard Baker, conductor

DAVID COLEMAN conductor

PHILIP DYSON piano

MARY CAREWE & LINDSEY BENSON vocalists

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at the Royal Opera House

22 April 7.30pm

English Chamber Orchestra

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Paul Barritt director

Works by Bach, Mozart, Stravinsky, Tchaikovsky.

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22 April 7.30pm

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This season's monastery sensation

So you want to be in show business? Then the best advice I can give you is "get thee to a nunnery". Or monastery, of course, depending on your personal grey area of ambiguity.

Yes, the rise and rise of the all-singing, all-dancing holy folk is the phenomenon of the Nineties. Last year, we learnt about the singing monks of Spain, whose 20-year-old recording of Gregorian chant became a best-seller for reasons unfathomable to man. God moves in a mysterious way, and so does the Top Ten at times.

Soon every other record company had its own choir of monks or nuns signed up and pumping out the old Misologydian modes. What a pity that Sister Wendy Beckett does not sing. She could have made a fortune delivering a few drones on *Top of the Pops*.

But somebody produced the next best thing: Hildegard of Bingen. Not only was she a full-blown abbess, she had also been dead for 800 years, thus usefully rendering her music out of copyright. No

rave is complete now without a "chill out" room where you lie down and listen to the 12th-century ditties of Abbess Hildegard.

And still the march of the cassocks goes unstoppably on — and no facetious remarks about kicking the habit, please: this is a respectful column. The sensation of the autumn will be the first British tour by the Shaolin Monks of China. Did I say first British tour? Good heavens, it will be the first time in 1,500 years that they have left their monastery. Bit of a coup for promoter Harvey Goldsmith, then. He has booked Wembley Arena, Birmingham NEC and other such temples of commerce for the monks to perform in.

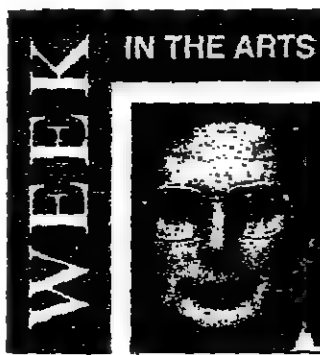
And what will they sing? Well, actually they don't sing. They do kung-fu. Or as Mr Goldsmith's representative more graphically puts it, they "hold burning metal

chains, hang from a tree by the neck, break thick stone by hand, and have large poles slammed into their stomachs".

I trust that the Archbishop of Canterbury is preparing a team of top-class Sumo-wrestling caravans to go on a reciprocal tour of China.

In an unwise attempt to keep tabs on popular culture, I have acquired a CD of Britain's entry for the Eurovision Song Contest. The song — *Love City Groove* by a group helpfully named Love City Groove — is in rap style, and to my ears a great advance on the *Rock-Me-Baby-Dinky-Dinky-Donk* school of composition that has hitherto dominated the Eurovision.

But the CD's format troubles me. It has seven tracks, amounting to 39 minutes of music. Instead of getting seven different songs, how-



RICHARD MORRISON

ever, the innocent purchaser finds just one: the eponymous *Love City Groove*, presented in seven different "mixes" including one — a veritable *Parsifal* among rap tracks — that lasts 11 minutes.

For the rap enthusiast, no doubt,

this is fascinating. And I would certainly not go so far as to call the CD a rip-off — not while the lawyers exercise their mature influence on my naïve ramblings. But it does seem to be yet another instance of performers exploiting the phenomenon of "Anorak Culture": connoisseurship run wild, stamp-collecting masquerading as artistic discovery.

I have since discovered that this multi-mix dodge happens a lot in the pop world. Prince — or The Artist Formerly Known As Prince, as the preposterous fellow now calls himself — why not simply "Love City Groove" like everybody else? — also issued an album containing seven versions of the same song. He called it *The Beautiful Experience*, and for his own bank balance it probably was.

But Anorak Culture has enervated other fields too. No opera

recording is complete nowadays without an appendix giving alternative versions of the same arias. The idea is that opera buffs will painstakingly programme their CD players to deliver their favoured versions. Well, I know many opera fanatics — some very fanatical. But I have never met one fanatical enough to do that.

Another ludicrous product of Anorak Culture is the "director's cut". This is a wonderful wheeze for the egomaniacal film director. First, he persuades film buffs to watch his interminable epic. Then, two years later, he persuades the same buffs to part with another £7 and watch it all again. Only this time it is 40 minutes longer.

Who is the more pitiable? The supposedly creative people who exploit the same old pieces again and again? Or us, the consumers, for being dopey enough to pay

them for doing so? I fear the latter. A psychiatrist would doubtless say that this all reflects our fear of the unknown: that we prefer increasingly esoteric variants of the same cultural experience to taking a risk on something new. If this is so, it is strange to find such lack of adventure afflicting even the teeny-bopper fans of Love City Groove and Prince. Clearly, middle age follows very soon after puberty these days.

My Celebrity Buffoons of the Week? First, Luciano Pavarotti — for launching his men's perfume in apparently rude good health on the very day that he told the Royal Opera he was too ill to sing *Un ballo in maschera*. No wonder that Covent Garden punters have taken to translating the opera's title as "a balloon in maschera".

Second, David Bowie — for inflicting his terrible paintings on the general public in a London gallery. And third, Charles Saatchi — for buying two of them.



With St Paul's Cathedral across the Thames in the background, Kate Glover of Thatching Advisory Services works on the Elizabethan-style roof of the Globe at Southwark

A Globe with world appeal

As Sam Wanamaker's glorious Shakespearean dream takes shape, Benedict Nightingale wonders who will fill it, and with what

Were Shakespeare to celebrate his 431st birthday tomorrow by taking a ghostly trip to Southwark, he might momentarily suppose he had travelled backwards rather than forwards in time. If he stood in the well of the replica Globe and looked down, he would, it is true, see concrete. But if he slowly raised his eyes, he might at first fancy himself in 1598, when the theatre was being built, and then in 1613, just before a canon in his *Henry VIII* ignited the thatch and burnt the original building to the ground.

It is an exhilarating moment for any bardophile to walk out of the public exhibition next door and enter what is about to be the dead spit of the theatre where *Hamlet*, *Lea* and *Macbeth* had their premieres. The timber is in place, which means that all three tiers are almost ready to hold audiences, and so is the fine plaster behind. From the Elizabethan-type bricks at the bottom to the trim polygon of Elizabethan-style thatch 31 feet above, this is recognisably Shakespeare's Globe.

The impression is of height and size. The Globe must have seemed a massive edifice in the early 17th century, and

even today, when we possess the Palladium and Drury Lane, its replica will be one of the six largest theatres in London. That raises obvious questions. Can its management fill its 1,536 spaces — 1,000-odd people seated, 500 standing in the open air — when the theatre opens for business next year? And if so, with what?

It will be easier to come up with answers next month, when the Globe hopes to appoint an artistic director. Already it has highly impressive people on its "artistic board", among them Diana Rigg, Judi Dench, Nigel Hawthorne and Brian Cox. But they are meant to keep a general eye on the theatre's evolving policy. It will be up to the Globe counterpart of the National's Richard Eyre or the RSC's Adrian Noble to choose the plays, pick a company, and decide who will direct what.

Michael Holden, the Globe's chief executive since September, foresees a split company of 32, each half performing two plays during what will initially be a 15-week summer season and will, in

1997, become a 20-week one. Almost certainly the grand opening will be June 14, 1996, which happens to be the birthday of the project's sole benefactor, the late Sam Wanamaker. Probably the first play will be *Henry V*, a suitable choice for a theatre open to the sky. But Holden is careful not to preempt his artistic director's decisions.

The importance of this appointment cannot be over-emphasised. If the shortlist now being drawn up does not contain strong enough candidates, the trustees will surely have to seek out better people who had not considered applying. For it will take an exceptional person to generate enough excitement and confidence to attract able performers to an untried project for a summer. And without that excitement, those actors, the Globe could dwindle into a blend of museum and theme park.

That would be a terrible pity, given the enterprise and effort behind the Globe. In the 25 years since Wanamaker dedicated himself to the improbable ideal of recreating

the world's most famous theatre, sceptics from Oxbridge cognoscenti to Southwark Council have been won over and more than £10 million raised. There is no way the project can go now except forwards, and that means not just finding more money, but convincing everyone the Globe has a vital contribution to make to British and indeed global culture.

It can be done. Every actor with any classical aspirations will surely want at some stage to tread where Shakespeare and his colleagues trod: on boards five feet above a sloping floor that, thanks to the architects' near-fanatic commitment to period authenticity, will consist of dried hazelnut shells, ash and grease. They will be performing in natural light in a tower above or mill immediately below. "Our groundlings will be paying as little as £4 each some days and we don't expect them to be passive," Holden declares. "If it's a poor performance, they can boo. We know the actors will

have to work to hold their attention."

A typical season will consist of a tragedy, history and comedy by the Bard himself, plus another play, perhaps by a contemporary writer. "Heritage" performance will be resisted, jeans and sweatshirts embraced if they suit a production. But any decor beyond bare props will be excluded, along with spotlights and other post-Elizabethan aids. Who knows? When an actor finds himself in the open air, relating to an audience as Richard Burbage and Will Kempe did, he may discover all kinds of fascinating things about his craft.

In some ways the project is a success even now. Its educational arm is organising workshops and other programmes for 25,000 students a year, and plans to multiply that number by ten. The Globe's exhibition, which will eventually move to a vast space beneath the theatre, is already attracting an annual 100,000, and should help to defray any deficits run up by what are likely to be unsubsidised productions. "We expect tourists on short

visits to see the Tower, Westminster, St Paul's and the Globe," says Holden. "And maybe Madame Tussaud's afterwards."

A far-fetched hope? When a footbridge links Bankside with St Paul's steps, the power station nearby becomes Tate Gallery Two, and the area sprouts shops and cafes, it may not be. In any case, the Globe itself has plenty of plans afoot. Already the shell of its 330-seat Irigo Jones, a Jacobean-style indoors playhouse, is looking as if it will indeed receive visiting theatre and opera companies. Eventually, the Globe will be the core of a one-acre sprawl comprising an audio-visual library, an education centre, an Elizabethan knot garden and else.

That will end up costing £30 million in all. But if the Globe gets the £8.5 million it wants from the National Lottery, plus a fat cheque from the Millennium Fund for its exhibition hall, an awful lot could be in place by September 21, 1999. Then the theatre could happily celebrate the 400th anniversary of its predecessor's opening with a revival of its inaugural production, Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*. So much of Wanamaker's impossible dream has come to pass. Why not that, too?

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

DEBORAH BULL

Profession: Ballerina.

Credentials: Hard slog and patience paid off when she was promoted to principal dancer three years ago, after more than ten years at Covent Garden. At 29, she was one of the oldest women in the Royal Ballet to win promotion to the senior ranks.

Slow and steady wins the race: "It was a slow climb. But I always say I'm quite grateful because you learn a lot going through the ranks. It's the knocks in life that really teach you things."

Where did she come from? Derby. Trained at the Royal Ballet School. Won the Prix de Lausanne in 1980.

What makes her stand out? Terrifically good-looking. Forties-style beauty. Strong, long-limbed elegance, great cheekbones. Cool and classy, the perfect villainess. If she had Oscars in ballet, she'd win one for her deliciously wicked portrayal of Gamzatti (*La Bayadère*).

What is she doing now? Working on the new Forsythe ballet which premieres at Covent Garden on Thursday.

Great British Hope: "That implies somebody at the beginning of their career, and that's not exactly how I feel. Although I am hopeful and I am British!"

Is she as smart as everyone says? "I trust they're not referring to my dress sense! I am a quick study. I am quick at learning things." So quick, in fact, that a choreographer once remarked that Bull seemed to know the steps even before he had taught them to her. "Yes, I have a good memory for steps. And I'm pretty good on postcodes, too. I could always get a job at the local sorting office."

Goes for broke as a dancer: "I love to work in an extreme sort of way. I like to use everything: to go to great lengths. I find that somehow easier than using less. Some people have the ability to stand still on stage and look absolutely gorgeous. I don't feel I'm one of those who can naturally do that. My natural state is to move in a very dynamic way."

So she's a natural for Forsythe: "I have an affinity with his work and with what Billy is all about. Which is finding the limits, and pushing the limits of what the body can do. It's something I can do and I'm willing to go even further."

How about something a little less physical? "I adored doing *Sleeping Beauty* and I would love to do Juliet. I think I have a dramatic ability which is almost completely untapped. I'm allowed to do the nasty dramatic roles, but underneath it all I probably would like to see myself more as a Giselle."

DEBRA CRAINE

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Use your skill to value antiques for a cash prize

Everybody likes playing the antiques game — trying to guess the price of valuable objects.

In The Sunday Times tomorrow, study three auction items selected and described by Hilary Kay, of Sotheby's and TV's *Antiques Roadshow*, and estimate how much they sold for. Simply phone in your answer, and you could be on target for a prize of £1,000.

See the Style section — The Sunday Times tomorrow

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CONCERT: Stephen Pettitt finds young strings on surprisingly good form

Opulent youth

Ensemble XXI
Moscow
St John's,
Smith Square

These circumstances of this concert did not augur well. The hall was cold, the printed programme amateurish. A fresh-faced Irish conductor, Lygia O'Riordan, showed a technique that looked suspiciously florid and extravagant. The band was a small string orchestra of conspicuously young players based in Moscow, even though only half were actually Russian. Many looked like comparatively recent graduates eager to negotiate that vital first step into the profession and thus easily recruited.

Yet Ensemble XXI Moscow, formed by O'Riordan and an associate in 1989 with the professed objective of "preserving the great Russian

string tradition", actually play quite well. Their sound is strong and opulent and secure, while at her best O'Riordan is an effective servant of the music. Her best was not shown in a dull reading of Mozart's B flat major *Divertimento*, K137, nor in Tchaikovsky's ubiquitous *Serenade for Strings*, devoid of adequate dynamic contrast.

The first half of the concert brought rarer music and, it must be said, more committed, alive playing. To begin there was Ernest Bloch's *Concerto Grosso* of 1923 for string orchestra and piano obbligato,

a meticulously crafted and inventive piece of neo-classicism. The piano (played here by Laura O'Gorman) fulfils the role of continuo, the resulting sound-world reminding one in the first instance of nothing other than Nadia Boulanger's Monteverdi.

The two soloists in Sofia Gubaidulina's *The Seven Lusts*

Words of Christ, the archetype of Russian bleakness and gloom, took rather more responsibility on their shoulders. In this intense sequence for strings, solo accordion and solo cello Gubaidulina uses clustered textures, microtonal inflections and highly precise individual coloration of notes as powerful expressive tools. The accordion is particularly adept at all of those devices, while the strange remoteness of its basic sound also helps this powerful, deeply affecting work to achieve its flavour. Owen Murray's playing of the instrument was poetically poised and dramatically gutsy, while the cellist Mark Friedman gave a performance just as captivating.

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6

ARTS

A chorus of disapproval

Nigel Sharpe
hears in our
cathedrals the
faint death-knell
of choral music

This week an 11-year-old girl made headlines when she challenged Westminster Cathedral's decision to ban her from singing in the cathedral choir on grounds of gender. Emily Edmondstone has already written to the Archbishop of Canterbury to complain, with a petition from 200 supporters. The Archbishop, however, has no jurisdiction in the matter. Now Emily's mother has said that a legal challenge may be forthcoming.

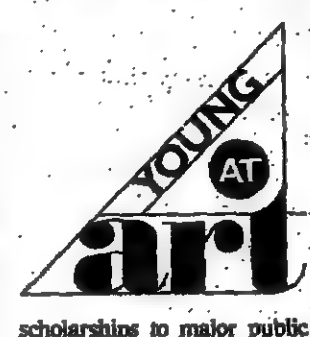
If that happens, it will be seen by many church musicians as inevitable, by others as regrettable and by some as utterly desirable. It will certainly bring to a head one of the biggest musical controversies in recent years: the question of whether cathedrals should continue to maintain choirs of men and boys in an era when sexual equality is the goal in society at large, and when the Church of England is already appointing women priests.

The last factor would clearly seem to dispose of the "tradition" argument. If women can become priests, why should girls not also upturn centuries-old traditions and join boys in the choir-stalls? They could, after all, be treated just like boys, joining at seven or eight and leaving at 13 (the average age when boys' voices break).

A stronger argument in the traditionalists' favour, perhaps, is the musical one: the great Tudor anthems that still form the basis of the cathedral choir's repertoire were all written with boys' voices in mind; boy trebles do have a different timbre from girls; and the English cathedrals (and Oxfordshire chapels) are acknowledged throughout the world for their choral excellence.



Westminster choristers: the true prize that girls are being denied by all-male choirs is a superb subsidised education



scholarships to major public schools — scholarships that subsidise their education to the age of 18.

This is the true prize that girls are being denied, and the real reason why there is growing resentment against the system. Some cathedrals have attempted to defuse the discontent by forming separate girls' choirs, which sing certain services with the men.

This certainly enables girls to experience the extraordinary musical discipline and training that is given to cathedral choristers. But the vast bulk of privileges still rests with the boys: this is where the battle line has been drawn.

But could all this soon be irrelevant? Cathedral choirs used to be the top of a great musical pyramid: every parish church in England would boast a choir constituted along similar lines, but singing simpler music to less demanding standards. Such parish choirs, however, are now the exception, not the norm. Increasingly, priests want "happy-clappy" music, using guitars and simple refrains. The four-part choir singing in harmony, and giving local children a taste of the glory of choral polyphony, is actively discouraged in many parishes, despite the best endeavours of

the "umbrella" organisation for parish music, the Royal School of Church Music.

That has left the cathedral choirs dangerously exposed. They used to be the pinnacle of achievement — that parish choirs could emulate; now, to many younger clergymen, they simply seem remote and anachronistic.

You do not have to be a *Joanna Trull* reader to fear that it is only a matter of time before the ancient cathedral choir, which is abolished by a dean or chapter that cannot see the point of it. The words "all-male bastion of elitism" will the echo like a death-knell in English choral music.

This, perhaps, is the only reason why cathedral choirs should think urgently about making fundamental changes — before change or abolition is forced on them.

alongside the text, cross-referencing or copying to examples. Without sound or video this is not multimedia, but it is fast, accessible and meaty stuff.

Perhaps the most original approach comes from Beaufort Publications' *Karaoke Shakespeare*, again offering audio performance with synchronised text, and cartoon graphics to set the scenes. Here, though, you can cut out one or more characters and take those parts, slotting yourselves into the play. It really is an inspired concept, potentially great and highly involving fun for schools or individuals. Sadly, however, on the first disc, *Macbeth*, the recorded performance is — well, amateurish.

The wisely uncredited actors sound like local drama group rejects, plunking out the lines without pace or direction, a false economy which ought to be remedied on later releases.

All these discs do things that books and video cannot. I enjoyed Shakespeare at school, but I would have seized on them all the more avidly for the sense of immediacy they offer, and the way they lead you on to explore intriguing trains of thought with speed and ease. And if that is not educational, what is?

MICHAEL SCOTT ROHAN

Load up your Shakespeare

character analyses, studies of language, performance and staging — including more video excerpts, on the reconstructed Globe for example — and background information on Shakespeare's life. The result has something of the fascination of the

To provide some answer to that in this short compass, I decided to see how such a machine would let me explore an "essential" subject which is not natural computer fodder. Enter Shakespeare, beloved of the Prince of Wales and other educational reformers, at home either on the boards or between them. What more could electronics add? Three new CD-Roms gave me very different answers.

The most ambitious came from Oxford publishers Arctia. They are devoting a CD-Rom to each play — *Romeo and Juliet* is the first — containing a complete performance in sound, with synchronised text on screen, to which is added video excerpts of crucial scenes from the BBC Shakespeare series. All this is linked to study material such as commentaries,

in texts on some earlier discs. Its attractive interface represents an old-fashioned library whose various items activate the software functions. These include the complete texts, several *Schools Shakespeare* versions, the Sonnets and other poems, and to my delight, *Sir Thomas More* and *The Two Noble Kinsmen* from the Apocrypha. To these are added introductions, commentaries, analyses of difficult words and phrases, historical and biographical background and examination material. Powerful analysis software will find quotations and occurrences of words, and even trace characters, subplots, ideas and imagery within individual plays or throughout the canon — ideal for the Malcolm Bradbury character writing a thesis on Shakespeare's first imagery. An integrated word processor on the PC version lets you write essays and so on

FUTURE VISIONS

rypha. To these are added introductions, commentaries, analyses of difficult words and phrases, historical and biographical background and examination material. Powerful analysis software will find quotations and occurrences of words, and even trace characters, subplots, ideas and imagery within individual plays or throughout the canon — ideal for the Malcolm Bradbury character writing a thesis on Shakespeare's first imagery. An integrated word processor on the PC version lets you write essays and so on

WEST END ENTERTAINMENT

THEATRE GUIDE

AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' Entertainin' song 'n' dance show created from the hit of Fats Waller. Non-stop energy on feet. Lyric: Shubert. Avenue, WI (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 5pm, Sun 3pm and Sat 5pm.

BROKEN GLASS Anne Miller's modernist drama, depicting his lifelong concern with personal responsibility. David Threlkeld's production, with Henry Goodman and Margaret Lockwood. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mat 5pm and Sat 3pm.

DANGEROUS GAMES Keith Barker directs an excellent cast in Priestley's psychological thriller about the grey areas in people's lives (is it wrong to probe too?). Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1725). Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 5pm, Sun 3pm and Sat 5pm.

DESIGN FOR LIVING Rachel Wood, Rupert Graves and Marcus D'Amico in Coward's marriage drama. Sean Mathias's award-winning, with even more sexual rough and tumble than at the Donmar. Chichester, Shaftesbury Avenue, WI (0171-494 5055). Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 5pm, Sun 3pm and Sat 4pm.

IF WE ARE WOMEN Richard Cullen directs Joan Plowright and Denis Quaid in a play by Caryl Churchill. AC-Cloakroom, Shaftesbury Avenue, WI (0171-494 5055). Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 5pm, Sun 3pm and Sat 4pm.

IN PRIME OF LOVE Peter Bowles and Lisa Harrow in Rattigan drama about a woman facing death. Inspiring and finally touching as it shows the effects, at and good, of emotional restraint. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, WI (0171-494 5070). Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 5pm, Sun 3pm and Sat 5pm.

INDIAN INK Felicity Kendal, Art Malik and Margaret Tait in Tom Stoppard's latest, witty, pungent, exploring aspects of Anglo-Indian relationships and espionage. Adelphi, Shaftesbury Avenue, WI (0171-494 5055). Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 5pm, Sun 3pm and Sat 5pm.

LIBERATION OF BRIGADE Vanessa Redgrave and Patsy Stone in an inimitable epic play about the Russian Revolution. 18th-century. Shaftesbury Avenue, WI (0171-494 5055). Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 5pm, Sun 3pm and Sat 5pm.

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VE - and after

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

A SEASON of plays entitled *Memory* — May 9th 1945 is being brought to the Riverside Studios in west London by Vanessa and Corin Redgrave and the Moving Theatre Company. Based on the theme of liberation following the defeat of fascism in 1945, as well as the danger of new forms of fascism and nationalism today, the season will continue until June 17. A highlight will doubtless be a production of Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*, starring Vanessa Redgrave as Cleopatra. Other notable plays in the season are Dusan Jovanic's *The Liberation of Skopje*, Alex Ferguson's new play *The Casement*; and Max Frisch's prophetic play *The Fire Raisers*.

Theatre Club members can buy tickets to the press night of *Antony and Cleopatra* on June 1 for £12, and meet the cast after the show. There will also be a special price reduction for all 13 shows in the season. Theatre Club members can buy tickets for productions in Studios 1 and 2 for £10 (normally £12) and in Studio 3 for £5 (normally £7). To book, telephone 0181-741 2255.

HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. In some cases there may be a transaction charge to cover postage. TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO1 1GN, or telephone 01206 791737 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-367 9673.

OTHER OPENINGS, OTHER SHOWS FOR YOUR DIARY

LONDON

Bloomsbury Theatre

May 3-4

● THE London premiere of Rock Theatre of Budapest's passionate and powerful *Dorian Gray* — The Musical, an adaptation of Oscar Wilde's classic novel. Club members can buy tickets for £10 (normally £14 and £18). Tel 0171-388 8822.

RICHMOND

Orange Tree

May 9-11, 16-18

● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £6.50 to £11.50) to see Tim Pigott-Smith and Victoria Hamilton in James Saunders's *Retreat*. Tel 0181-940 3633.

PITLOCHRY

Festival Theatre

● THE 1945 season opens on April 28 with Alan Ayckbourn's *A Chorus of Disapproval*. Other plays include: *Charley's Aunt*; by Brandon Thomas (from May 3); *Cause Celebre* by Terence Rattigan (from May 10); *The Stearns* by Tony Roper (from May 17); *Building Blocks* by Bob Larbey (from May 24); *Wuthering Heights*, dramatised by John Clifford (from June 28); *First-Class Passengers*, by Allan Massie. Tickets for all these plays £8, £10.50 and £12.50 (normally £9.50, £12 and £14). Tel 01796 472680.

NEWCASTLE

Playhouse

April 25-29

● THE irreverent black farce *Dumbstruck*, the hit of 1994's Glasgow Mayfest, stars Elaine C. Smith, Jimmy Chiswick and Forbes Macdonald. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £9 to £12.50). Tel 0191-201 8093.

LLANDUDNO

North Wales Theatre

May 5-11

● CELEBRATE the sound and style of Jake and Elwood Blues in *A Tribute to the Blues Brothers*. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £12.50). Tel 01492 572000.

CHESTER

Gateway Theatre

May 5-6, 9-11

● JOHN MCKAY's *Crush* is the hilarious and moving story of a man who, 15 years after he had fallen in love with one of his teachers, meets her again, and has the chance to build a relationship. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £5 to £8.50). Tel 01244 340392.

NEWCASTLE

UNDER LYME

New Victoria Theatre

May 22-25

● TICKETS £5 (normally £6.50) for Gilbert & Sullivan's classic opera *The Mikado*. Tel 01752 71962.

BIRMINGHAM

Repertory Theatre

April 25-May 1

● SAVE £2 on tickets (normally £14.50 and £15.50) for Shaw's evergreen *Pygmalion*, and enjoy a 10 per cent discount in the theatre restaurant. Tel 0121-236 4455.

ON TOUR

WOKING

New Victoria Theatre

April 25-May 6

● Save £4 on the top two prices for evening performances from Monday to Thursday (normally £30 and £23, and £25 on the top price for all matinees (normally £16 and £11). Tel 01483 761144.

SOUTHAMPTON

Mayflower Theatre

May 10-12

● Save 20 per cent on the top two prices (normally £20.50 to £27.50). Tel 01703 229771.

BRISTOL

Hippodrome

May 23-June 10

● Save £5 on the top two prices (normally £15 to £25) for performances on Monday to Friday evenings and Saturday matinees. Tel 0117-929 4444/929 7799.

CARDIFF

New Theatre

July 4-5

● Save £5 on the top two prices in the stalls (normally £21 and £23). Tel 01222 394844.

The WH Smith featured CD

Dizzy Gillespie was one of a handful of revolutionaries who took American jazz to new heights by developing bebop.

In this album, one of his last, Gillespie celebrates his ties with Charlie "Bird" Parker in the exciting years for serious black musicians immediately after the Second World War.

It features a hand-picked group of players and was recorded over three days in January 1992 at the Blue Note, New York.

Take the coupon below to a WH Smith music counter and you can obtain it at a £3 saving on the normal price of £13.99. The offer is valid until May 13.



The Times and WH SMITH

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RECORDINGS: A free spirit plays Schumann; vocal thrills from Thill; Oasis go from strength to strength

Hilary Finch

SCHUMANN
Waldscenen/Drei
Romanzen etc
Maria João Pires
DG 437 538-2***
MARIA João Pires, Mitsuko
Uchida and Radu Lupu have
all issued fascinating new
Schumann recitals this
month: as space permits only
one, my choice must be that by
Pires, yet another recording
which reveals the free spirit
and unique character of this
outstanding pianist.

Her *Waldscenen* (*Wood-
land Scenes*) seem to drift in
and out of the subconscious,
inhabiting a dream world
from which they fitfully wake
to bright, fleeting visions. The
sentimental fingerwork, firmly ar-
ticulated, yet quivering with
instinctive response, is entirely
typical of Pires, and makes
any mannered rubato entirely
superfluous. *Lonely Flowers*
and *Birds as Prophet* have a
rare unaffected simplicity and
perfection of scale.

After an airy, contemplative
Arabesque, Pires generates
quite a head of steam for the
Three Romanzen, Op 28. They
have their moments of elusive
inwardness, too, before the
parade of the Viennese Carni-
val in *Fischingschwanke Aus
Wien*. The ear is always kept
alert to hear what may be
coming round the next corner,
whether in a barely audible yet
compellingly eloquent
Romance, or in the hide-and-
seeking frolics of the
Scherzo.



João Pires: outstanding

CHARTER
Schubert
Miraculous Mandarin/
Kammermusik
Kocis/Hauser
Harmonia Mundi HMA
190-3021***
TO COINCIDE with Philips's
release of Zoltan Kocis's con-
tinuing complete Bartók edi-
tion, Harmonia Mundi
reissues the Hungarian pianist's
previous elusive world
premiere recording of the
composer's piano transcrip-
tion of *The Miraculous Man-
darin*, together with
Schubert's transcription of
his own *Kammermusik*.

Piano transcriptions flour-
ished not only as the means of
distribution and publicity long
before records were thought
of, but they increasingly be-
came re-compositions in their
own right, and the more
virtuoso the better. Kocis and
his wife, Adrienne Hauser,
create their own tiny theatre for
the *Mandarin*, and bring an
electric tension and velocity to
its erotic and exotic narrative.
Schubert was rather
more austere in his thinking
about the principles and aims
of transcriptions; but Kocis
and Hauser certainly show
high spirits as well as intellec-
tual rigour in the *Kammer-
musik*'s complex and
compressed polyphony.

Clive Davis

JACQUE
DANKWORTH/
ANTHONY KERR
First Cry
EPZ 1010***
AS BOTH a singer and ac-
tress, Jacquie Dankworth has
the potential to match the
achievements of her mother,
Cleo Laine. Turning it back
on the conventional vocal rep-
ertoire, her debut album
forms a bold declaration of
independence, her ethereal
voice woven into the subtle
vibrations of Anthony Kerr.
Bosco de Oliveira's restrained

percussion adds to the atmo-
sphere of exoticism. Kerr's
themes draw on a thoughtful
combination of jazz, Latin and
pop influences. Dankworth's
lyrics are the one weak link.
Aspiring to the timeless and
spiritual, they tend to read like
New Age greeting cards from
some Californian ashram. It
says a lot for her artistry —
and Kerr's arrangements —
that most of them are deliv-
ered with conviction.

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Big Bands In Hi-Fi, Vols 1&2
(2 CDs each)
Capitol CDP
8279132/8279162***
THIS record store shelves are,
of course, groaning with big-
band compilations, many of
them of dubious heritage. No
such reservations apply to the
sprawling contents of these
beautifully recorded mid-price
anthologies from the Capitol
archives, which amount to a
concise history of the swing
orchestra, from Goodman to
Ellington, Shaw, Kenton and
beyond. The big band era was
past its peak by the time the
leaders were invited into the
studios to re-create their old
hits, but the depth and clarity
of the sound ensure that these
performances possess a rare
freshness.

**CHARLIE HADEN/
HANK JONES**
Steal Away
Verve 52749-2**
GREAT things might have
been expected of this recital of
gospel hymns and folk songs.
The closing medley, featuring
Abide With Me and *What We
Have In Jesus*, certainly has a
quiet grandeur about it. Other-
wise the combination of
Jones's ruminative piano and
Haden's double bass suffers
from a certain monotony of
mood and tempo. In the end
neither man is forceful enough
to compensate for the absence
of a vocalist.

John Higgins

LINCOMPARABLE
GEORGES THILL
Fortune UCD 16727
(2 CDs)***

THILL was the greatest
French tenor of the interwar
years. There was no one to
match him in the heroic roles
of French opera, whether as
Berlioz's Aeneas, Massenet's
Le Cid or Saint-Saëns's Sam-
son. Whenever a call to arms
was needed, Thill's clarion
tones were at the ready. There
was even a recording of the
Marseillaise, but this alas is
not contained on Forlane's
collection.

Otherwise it is a very repre-
sentative assembly of Thill's
early years, with tracks cover-
ing 1927 to 1933 when he was
in his early thirties and before
he came to international fame
with his film of *Chaplin's
Louis*, opposite Grace Moore.
Some of the recordings are
very familiar, with one or two
of them already available in
EMI's Thill issue of French
opera arias (CDM 7 69548 2);
no one would want to be
without his version of *Roméo's
Ahl! Lève-toi soleil* or
Admetus's *Bannis la crainte*
from Gluck's *Malceste*.
Forlane adds in Meyerbeer's
Les Huguenots, and Thill in
strictly sentimental mood with
Messager's *Palmes ma
vieille maison grise* from
Fortunio. Thill was not just an
heroic tenor.

He can be criticised for
singing everything in French,
whether it be Verdi's *Radame*
or Wagner's *Lohengrin*. But
with tones as virile and open
as his and the high Cs emerg-
ing effortlessly it is possible to
forgive him anything.

JUSSE BJÖRLING
The Ultimate Collection
RCA 7432 1 24281 2
(2 CDs)***
THE punning title half indi-
cates that these recordings
have been taken from the last
decade of Björling's career,
from 1950 to 1959. He died,
partly through overindul-
gence in alcohol, before he was
50 so there is no question of
this showing a tenor in de-
cline. On the contrary. Two
separate tracks of *Nessun
dorma*, one from 1958 and the
other from 1959, show him to

NEW ON VIDEO: Quentin Tarantino's period piece, a flamboyant French thriller, and a modern Romeo



John Travolta and Samuel L. Jackson in *Pulp Fiction*, based on American crime fiction of the 1940s: wasted money drips from the screen but the stars keep us gazing

PULP FICTION
Touchstone, 18, 1994
QUENTIN Tarantino's films excite
young filmmakers like no others. They
offer bloodshed, zany behaviour,
words of four letters, and a sense
that life is just a movie writ large.
This trilogy devoted to hitmen,
boxers and Mr Bigs also feeds on
America's lurid crime fiction of the
1930s and 1940s. A film far more
bloated than *Reservoir Dogs*: wasted
money drips from the screen in
the set of a restaurant temple to pop
culture. But the bravado stimulates,
and the stars, from John Travolta to
Bruce Willis, keep us gazing.

BAROCCO
Art House, 15, 1996
WHY does a French director choose
for his film title the Italian word for

baroque? Because, partly, he is
André Téchiné, a critic turned film-
maker with fancy notions; and
because both plot and style of this
conspiracy thriller are aggressively
ornamental. Beyond cameraman
Bruno Nuytten's wide-screen com-
positions and sumptuous colour, the
film also boasts two big stars: a
slimline Gérard Depardieu as a
boxer with blackmail plans, and
Isabelle Adjani as his girlfriend.
Insubstantial, but enjoyably flam-
boyant.

**THE PUNK AND THE
PRINCESS**
PolyGram, 15, 1994
ODD, engaging modern variation
on *Romeo and Juliet*, set in London,
with Romeo a punk in tartan
trousers and Juliet a poor little rich

girl stranded in Notting Hill. The
leads, Charlie Creed-Miles and
Vanessa Hadaway, make up in
freshness what they lack in tech-
nique, and the free-wheeling style of
director Mike Sarne (scarcely sighted
since the debacle of *Myra
Breckinridge* in 1970) keeps things
gauche but lively. For all its faults,
the film touches real feelings. Avail-
able to rent.

SAMSON AND DELILAH
CIC, U, 1949
NO REMASTERING of the print
material can give Cecil B. DeMille's
biblical extravaganza the sincerity
and technical polish it never had.
But humbug is all part of DeMille's
appeal, and the fake battle between
Samson and the lion in no way
diminishes the film's entertainment.

Victor Maure and Hedy Lamarr
both excel at displaying their chests,
though handling dialogue seems a
problem. George Sanders amuses
as the Philistine ruler.

**MYSTERIES OF THE
ORGANISM**
Cinecoeur, 18, 1971
DUSAN Makavejev crowned his
career as the agent provocateur of
Yugoslav cinema with this wild
foray into the sexual theories of
Wilhelm Reich. Documentary mate-
rial on Reich's work and America's
counter-culture of the late 1960s is
sliced together with a fictional story
about a Yugoslav girl trying to
spread Reich's gospel of sexual
freedom to a mindless Russian
skating star. The collage style now
appears dated, though the film has

not lost its power to offend: the video
follows Makavejev's own edited
version prepared for Channel 4.

SLEEP WITH ME
First Independent, 18, 1994
IN RORY Kelly's uneven first
feature, LA friends party, play poker
and suffer in love. A film full of
trendy faces, including Tarantino,
who babbles in one scene about the
homosexual undercurrents in *Top
Gun*. But the focus rests on Eric
Stoltz, Meg Tilly and Craig Sheffer:
their triangular love affair eventual-
ly generates sparks, though not
enough to prevent the film seeming
an assortment of scenes and smart
lines in search of a reason for being.
Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN



Emma Kirkby: radiant

by the harpsichordist Lars
Ulrik Mortensen, who stylis-
tically plays a number of keyboard
movements.

PALLAVICINO
Il secolo libro de madrigali
a cinque voci, 1600
Consort of Musick
Musica Oscura 070976***
BENEDETTO Pallavicino is
the man who pipped Monte-
verdi to the post by succeeding
the great Giaches de Wert as
the Gonzaga family's *maestro
di capella* in 1596. Monteverdi
scurly referred to him there-
after as an "adequate" com-
poser. Attentive listening to
this lovely recording (in the
series *The Monteverdi Circle*)
of Pallavicino's sixth book of
madrigals, ravishingly ex-
pressive, fluid settings of texts
mostly by Guarini and Tasso,
will soon tell you that
Pallavicino is far, far better
than that. The music is most
beautifully performed, deli-
cately combining blend and
character of voice.

GREENE
Songs and Keyboard Works
Emma Kirkby/Lars Ulrik
Mortensen
Musica Oscura 070978***
THIS disc, of music by prob-
ably the finest English-born
composer of the time, is part of
the series *Handel and his
Circle*. It shows well the
immense stylistic variety of
Greene's music, ranging from
the straightforward, open style
of his English ballad-like
songs to his florid, ornate
Italian settings, and taking in
a comparatively large-scale
and indisputably fine English
cantata, *Beauty, an Ode*, on
the way. There is also a fine
setting of Shakespeare's *Orpheus
with his Lute*, as well as
six sonnets by Edmund Spenser.
Emma Kirkby sings with
radiance and intelligence, ac-
companied in the cantata by
an excellent quartet of Ba-
roque strings and supported

the son of the great man
undoubtedly exacerbated the
situation. As a result, it is only
in recent times that Siegfried's
works — he composed
18 operas, incidentally (five
more than his father) — are at
last attaining the recognition
they deserve.

The recording of his sym-
phonic poem *Sehnsucht*, Op 0,
recently did little to advance
his reputation. But now, from
the German label cpo, comes
volume 1 of a projected *Complete
Overtures*, containing
some truly remarkable music.
The overture to *Die heilige
Linde* is considered by some to
be Siegfried's finest, and cer-
tainly it is a piece that high-
lights his skill in orches-
tration, as well as his melodic
flair. That to *Der Frieden-
sengel* has a quality of tranquil
radiance that immediately
proclaims him the son of his
father, while *Der Schmied von
Marienburg* actually comes
pretty close to quoting the
Valhalla motif from *The Ring*.
Herzog Wildfang, on the other
hand — whose overture is the
fourth on this disc — dared to
attempt a parody of *Die
Meistersinger*.

The performances of all four
overtures, under the experi-
enced direction of Werner
Andreas Albert, are exem-
plary. The continuation is await-
ed with impatience.

CARL STAMITZ
Four Symphonies
London Mozart
Players/Barnet
Chandos CHAN 9358***
IT IS an interesting fact that
the symphonies of Haydn and
Mozart amount to less than 1
per cent of all those written in
the 18th century. Some of the
other 99 per cent are at last
seeing the light of day, thanks
in no small part to enterpris-
ing companies such as
Chandos, cpo and Capriccio.

This is the third release in
Chandos's "Contemporaries
of Mozart" series. The previ-
ous one, of two symphonies by
Franz Krommer (from the
same forces), I welcomed last
year, and this disc of four

symphonies by Carl Stamitz
has given me scarcely less
pleasure. The works include
one entitled *La Chasse* (*The
Hunt*), scored colourfully for
strings, oboes, horns, trum-
pets and timpani, and others
featuring the famous "Mann-
heim crescendo", cultivated by
the orchestra in that city under
the direction of Carl Stamitz's
father Johann, an equally
prolific symphonist.

Mathias Barnert and the
London Mozart Players once
again offer stylish, alert per-
formances. This is a series that
could run and run.

POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

OASIS
Some Might Say
Creation***
MAINTAINING a work-rate
that is almost comparable to
that of the great pioneering
rock'n'roll bands of the 1960s,
Oasis follow up their massive
Christmas hit, *Whatever*, with
another four brand new
songs, none of which is to be



Oasis: rapid work rate

found on the *Definitely May-
be* album.
Some Might Say is a rau-
cous pop-rocker, influenced as
much by the Faces as by the
Beatles, with a real blaster of a
chorus, and *Acquiesce* is al-
most as good, a typical Oasis
minor chord sequence with
lyrics about people needing

and believing in one another.
Headshrinker is faster and
louder still, but without any
discernible tune, while *Talk
Tonight* is a contrastingly
sensitive ballad showcasing
the boys' vulnerable side.

If there is currently a British
band who have the bull
gripped more firmly by the
horns than Oasis I'd like to
know who they are.

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

**TERENCE TRENT
D'ARBY**
TTD's Vibrator
Columbia 478505***
DESPITE the new cornflake
image and talk of a "rawer"
sound, Terence Trent D'Arby
continues to occupy a familiar
patch of no-man's land some-
where between the over-sexed
funk of Prince and the under-
resourced retro-rock of Lenny
Kravitz on his crassly-titled
fourth album, *TTD's Vibrator*.

Despite his obvious talent as
a singer, D'Arby's writing is
still weighed down with an
inordinate amount of egotisti-
cal baggage. But despite his
poetic aspirations he sounds,
more often, like a mercurial
Jack-the-lad reeling off a
string of chat-up lines on
Blind Date ("I'm a match and
you're kerosene", "You're so
fine, what's your solar sign?",
"Because of your sigh, the
hours fly").

Beyond grouping his songs
around the theme of love,
D'Arby recognises few stylistic
boundaries, and the album is
a sprawling collection which
exhibits patchy touches of
brilliance. The best stretch is a
Stevie Wonder-type ballad
called *Undeniably* which is
linked to the Joni Mitchell-
influenced *We Don't Have
That Much Time Together* by
a wonderful jazz instrumental
passage featuring saxophonist
Brandford Marsalis.

* Worth hearing
** Worth considering
*** Worth buying

GERMAINE GREER'S PASSION FOR TENORS.

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GARDENING

George Plumptre, The Times Gardener, previews the leading flower and horticultural shows

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q Five years ago I was given an offset of a pampas grass. It has grown well but produced no fluffy flowers. A neighbour says it has to be charred to make it progress. How is this done, and will it ever flower? — Joan Batram, Greenwich, London.

A Given full light and time, your pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) will flower. Small divisions can take a few years to build up to flowering, especially in dry, poor soils, so feed and water yours often to push it on. Charring refers to the quick way to tidy up the plant in winter by setting fire, briefly, to the old foliage. The time to do this is in January or February, and it is entertaining rather than necessary.

Q I am moving into a second-floor apartment with a north-facing balcony. I want to have colour and interest all year round, and will set up a large trough of bedding and two containers for large feature shrubs for autumn and winter interest. Any suggestions? — Jean Randall, Worcester.

A In your trough grow orange busy Lizzies, pansies and begonias. Try the pendulous orange *Begonia sutherlandii*, with trails of yellow creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia* 'Aurea'). You could add ferns, such as *Adiantum pedatum*, *Blechnum tabulare*, and golden-leaved *Dryopteris erythrosora*. Evergreen shrubs in pots will need as much light as possible during summer to keep them dense and well furnished, even if you pull them back under cover for the winter. Try, too, a pair

of clipped box cones, or a male and female variegated holly. A small, arching bamboo such as *Fargesia murielae* 'Simba' would look fine in a square tub. The tender *Azara microphylla*, in an insulated container, makes a delicate, ferny-leaved evergreen shrub, whose tiny yellow flowers in early spring have a vanilla fragrance. I would have bush ivy, too.

Q We intend to pull down our house and rebuild it, but save as much as we can of the well-stocked garden. We are concerned about a 12ft by 6ft bay tree. Should we move the whole thing? Or take cuttings? — A.E. and A. Birmingham, Blundellsands, Liverpool.

A At that size, bay (*Laurus nobilis*) is too large to move without professional help. It would be better to start again, either with a new plant or, if you have a sentimental attachment to the old one, a cutting. But the time to take cuttings, as semi-ripe wood, is late summer, by which time I assume building will be under way. On the other hand, after a hard winter, bay often dies back and then produces smaller stems in spring. See if there are any small stems at the base which have rooted into the surrounding soil, and might be replanted now.

● Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.



The horticultural show at Chelsea in May is one of the highlights of the summer, with 170,000 visitors. Many nurseries try to produce new varieties for their displays

Big shows break into bloom

For the next six months gardeners, nursery men and women, flower arrangers and a host of others will devote thousands of hours and pounds to entice and excite enthusiasts, who will flock to the big horticultural shows, to spend, spend, spend. Britain's

biggest spring show is under way at Harrogate, Yorkshire. It started on Thursday and by tomorrow evening will probably have attracted more than 50,000 visitors. In a fortnight, the Malvern show in Worcestershire will draw more than 70,000 in three days. Then come the summer big

guns: Chelsea in May, the BBC Gardeners' World show at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham in June, and Hampton Court in July. Their combined attendances will top half a million.

The decision by the Royal Horticultural Society in 1988 to limit numbers at Chelsea and introduce a pre-booked ticket system gave a boost to attendances at other shows, many of which start at about the same time. From a peak of about 245,000 in 1987, Chelsea's attendance is now fixed at 170,000, and young shows, such as Malvern (started in 1987), BBC Gardeners' World (1993) and Hampton Court (1990), all benefited.

August's biggest show is at Southport, Lancashire, and is expected to attract about 100,000 over three days. September sees three more heavyweight shows: the RHS Great Autumn Show at its Westminster Halls; Harrogate's Great Autumn Show and, for the first time, Malvern's two-day Autumn Show at the end of the month.

Interpersed with this programme are about 30 other shows nationwide, organised by the Horticultural Exhibitors' Association. Most are traditional flower shows, but some are agricultural shows, such as the Royal Bath and West and Royal Welsh, with a horticultural presence.

A handful of shows have the attraction of being set in outstanding gardens. These include the Great Garden and Countryside Festival at Holker Hall, Cumbria, in early June, and the Festival of Gardening at Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, at the end of June.

The increasing attraction for visitors is the chance to see top-quality displays of plants, often including new varieties and, at many shows, visitors can buy plants. There is usually much else: competitions for garden machinery, ornaments, book-stalls and a seemingly limitless range of other goods and ideas which come under the enormous umbrella of gardening and horticulture. But whether it is in the great nurseries at Chelsea, or the cattle sheds at Malvern, the primary draw is the display of plants. This is reassuring when we are told by some professional designers that the contemporary British garden is too old-fashioned, and that in gardens of the future, plants may easily become a less important element.

- WEEKEND TIP**
- Thin out seedlings of early-sown hardy annuals.
 - Harden off plants of half-hardy annuals in a frame, ready for planting out at the end of May.
 - Ensure that all staking and tying up of tall border perennials has been completed, or prepared.
 - Trim fuchsias and root the good cuttings in a peat sawdust.
 - For early runner beans, sow seed in a box in a cold frame. Protected at night, they should be ready to plant out in May.

Specialising in perennials and small flowering shrubs, Mrs Hardy feels that the appeal for visitors to the shows is that they can see how to use and group plants and, in most cases, buy them on the spot. Chelsea is the exception, where people cannot buy until the last afternoon.

For the Hardys, Chelsea is the most costly to attend. Accommodation in London swells their costs to between £3,000 and £4,000, compared to between £500 and £750 for other shows. But, at Chelsea, they aim to sell up to 4,000 catalogues, producing income and a foundation for future business.

On a larger scale is another regular exhibitor, Burncoose Nursery, near Redruth in Cornwall. Last year it had one of the largest exhibits at Chelsea. It cost £26,000 to mount. This year's will be smaller but will still cost between £10,000 and £20,000. Charles Williams, one of the nursery's founders, says these costs are justified. Last year, Chelsea produced £30,000 worth of orders. Mr Williams also offers a mail-order service, and says the way he ensures success is to be seen at shows (19 this year). In addition, he estimates that cash sales at shows account for 10 per cent of the nursery's turnover.

With the presence of nursery exhibitors, visitors to shows are guaranteed a feast of top-quality displays throughout the summer. The buys could include one of the new varieties that nurseries try to produce — usually at Chelsea. The Hardys will be unveiling a selection of new lavender varieties. Burncoose's revelations will include new lilies and two new delphiniums, including pink-flowered 'Barbapink'.

The successful appearance of the new plants will partly depend on the right conditions to bring them to their peak at a show. But one of the delights of gardening, even for the professional, is the element of uncertainty and dependence on the weather, which sharpens the achievement when it all works out perfectly.

Show dates

Harrogate Spring, April 20-23 (01773-521 0132 or 01423 561049).
Malvern Spring, May 5-7 (01694 922751).
Chelsea, May 23-26 (0171-993 4696).
Holker Hall, June 2-4 (01595 58838).
BBC Gardeners' World, June 14-18 (0121 767 4333).
Hatfield House, June 24-25 (0181 547 1566).
Hampton Court, July 5-9 (0171-344 4444).
Southport, Aug 17-19 (01754 547147).
RHS Great Autumn, Sept 12-13 (0171-628 1744).
Harrogate Great Autumn, Sept 15-17 (01423 561049).
Malvern Autumn, Sept 30-Oct 1 (01694 922751).

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NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE



Chenies Manor House, Chenies, Buckinghamshire (01494 762888).

In Chenies village off A404, M25 junc B. Open April-Sept. Wed, Thurs and Bank Hols. 2-5pm. £1.80, children 90p.

Elizabeth Macleod Matthews's early summer display is a 'must'. The formally compartmented one-acre garden, given structure by clipped hedges and topiary of yew and box, is in keeping with the Tudor architecture of the house. The centrepiece of the display is the sunken garden, which contains many of the garden's 5,000 tulips, whose colours should be at their peak over the next week or two. The tulips are planted in generous clumps, with wallflowers behind and forget-me-nots in front. The forget-me-nots include the striking, deep blue 'Ultramarine'. Among the numerous tulip varieties are the scented, pink-flowered 'Angelique' and the late-flowering 'Marjani' which is white with a strawberry line. Part of the skill in the planting is how the tulips make blocks of colour between the emerging foliage of hostas and alchemilla, and later-flowering perennials, such as astragalus and campanulas.

Stillingfleet Lodge, Stillingfleet, Yorkshire (01904 728309).

Seven miles south of York, via A1 and B1222. Open tomorrow, 1.30-5pm; May 14 and June 25, 1.30-5.30pm. Wed afternoons in May and June, 1-5pm. Nursery: April 1-Oct 18, 11.50, children free.

Vanessa Cook's nursery, burgeoning with perennials, and the adjacent garden around the attractive Yorkshire farmhouse, make a com-

Gardens to visit



Chenies Manor House sunken garden

pulsive attraction. She holds the National Collection of pulmonarias, and tomorrow they should be at their best. The collection is arranged in a square area divided by stone paths, but there are other pulmonarias throughout the half-acre garden. Water drips from an old metal hand-pump into a stone pool beneath a large, white-flowered Clematis armandi, and

a C. alpina 'Frances Rivis' entwines a golden philadelphus with its mauve flowers. Viburnum burkwoodii 'Park Farm Hybrid', with clusters of pink-flushed flowers, the yellow-flowered perennial wallflower 'Hesperis Cresser' and epimediums are examples of the garden's riches.

Dorothy Clive Garden, Willoughbridge, Staffordshire (01630 647257).

Seven miles north of Market Drayton, on A51. Open April-Oct, daily 10am-5.30pm. £2.60, children £1.

This garden had a romantic beginning. In 1940, Colonel Harry Clive began the woodland garden, which covers about an acre and a half in an old quarry, to give his invalid wife, Dorothy, somewhere to walk. After she died in 1942, Col. Clive continued its expansion and planning, and, after his death in 1963, it continued under the Willoughbridge Garden Trust, which he set up. The garden designer John Coddington has worked on parts of the garden. The whole, eight-acre garden is on a south-facing slope with acid soil. Beneath mature trees, the quarry garden is planted with Rhododendrons and camellias, with bluebells covering the ground at this time of year. On one side of the quarry, water cascades over a waterfall made in 1990. In the main, sloping area of garden, grass paths wind between large beds and expand into areas of lawn. The range of plants, from perennials or bulbs, is absorbing. One of the best areas lies towards the car park at the bottom, where a simple wooden gazebo overlooks a scene of garden made on a steep slope which drops down to a pond.

G.P.

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Page 10 of 10

PROPERTY

11

Period homes without the hassle

New country houses
look good and are
cheaper to maintain.

Sense and sensibility have a place in a large Sussex house that could have come straight out of a Jane Austen novel, with its pedimented facade, porticoed doorway and classic proportions.

Yet the £400,000 show house, at Rookwood Park, Horsham, Sussex, is new. It belongs to what its builder, Berkeley Homes, calls "a new generation of country houses" — houses that are traditional in design to appeal to the sensibilities, but have the practical good sense of the new: low maintenance, high insulation, and a choice of finish.

Set around a village green, Rookwood Park offers a selection of period architectural styles: from thatch and Sussex barn to Georgian and Queen Anne, each in plots of one-third to one acre. Prices start at £270,000, but seven of the ten houses were sold before the development was launched.

The demand for upmarket period country houses has remained buoyant despite the recession, and there is now a market shortage. Competition has forced buyers to consider a new home instead, and builders are responding by giving them what they want — period-style homes with five bedrooms, three bathrooms, at least three reception rooms (with working fireplaces), and a conservatory, all set in mature grounds.

Developer Paul Knappfield builds such houses as "one-offs", including the Regency-style house at Coteshill, near Amersham, Buckinghamshire, which he built as his own home. "We made the details ourselves, using local craftsmen," says Mr Knappfield, the managing director of Eastglen property services. "But we imported Italian marble for the hall and bathrooms, and brought mature trees from Italy for landscaping. The house had to look like the real thing. We didn't double-glaze the sash windows because it was important to get an authentic feel."

At Bray, Berkshire, Berkeley is building a £1 million Victorian-style mansion on the banks of the Thames, boasting a boathouse, triple garage, turrets, gargoyles, bays and gables. At Cholmeley Grange in Highgate, north London, the company has recently completed a £12.5 million



This country house at Rookwood Park, Horsham, Sussex, is not as old as it looks — it was built this year, and is now on sale for £400,000

Edwardian-style mansion, complete with picture rails, deep skirting boards, architraves and open fireplaces. It is the only property left on the development — the other ten were snapped up immediately.

The demand for period-style homes is not confined to the southeast. Crosby Homes has several small prestige developments, including Woodcote Grange at Prestbury, near Macclesfield, where two £500,000 Lutens-style red-brick houses, each set in half an acre, are being built.

"We usually sell the first three houses on a development before we've laid a brick," says David Dickinson, the sales director. "It gives buyers flexibility — for example, we can put in Aga cookers as extras. The first floor is cast from concrete, giving structural freedom for whatever room sizes are wanted upstairs, and interior walls are block-built for better soundproofing."

Bryant Homes has its own "Country Homes" developments in the West Midlands, Cheshire and the

Home Counties. "Business has been good at the upper end of the market because fewer houses are available in the £300,000 to £500,000 price range," says a spokesman.

Jonathan Haward, of the County Homesearch Company, Truro, Cornwall, says: "Last year, people competed for older properties. For example, a house in St Mawes, Cornwall, on the market for £500,000, drew three buyers. The purchaser finally paid well over £600,000. Then there was the client who wanted a £500,000 listed house, but the surveyor said that maintenance of windows, roof and rendering would cost £20,000 a year. Some people want less hassle. There's a huge demand for old rectories but there is a shortage, and the appeal of quality new homes is increasing."

Lt Col Bill Clayden and his wife, Edwina, swapped old for new when they moved to England from Jersey to be near their four sons. "I retired in 1993 and we couldn't afford the upkeep of our large Victorian house

any longer. It had no damp course, a leaking slate roof, and dry and wet rot. I'm just glad we're not there this winter," Mr Clayden says.

"We particularly wanted a country house in a village setting near Salisbury, but finding one was not easy. We engaged County Homesearch, Winchester, which showed us a neo-Georgian house with five bedrooms, three reception rooms and three bathrooms, that was being built in half an acre in the village of Middle Winterslow. The house is built from reclaimed bricks, which makes it look older, and there is even a Georgian-style false window. We could choose the kitchen we wanted."

The Adams-style fireplace was carved from reclaimed wood and the bannisters were made by a local cabinet maker. We have oil-fired central heating but have only used 600 gallons — costing £360 — in the year we've been here, thanks to cavity insulation; we used more than 1,000 gallons in Jersey, but we were still cold. I like to think we have combined

the advantages of an old place with those of a new one." Joan and Julian Fall turned to County Homesearch at Abbots Worthy, Winchester, Hampshire, when they traded down from a large period house in Kent. They wanted something more manageable, in a village setting, but thought they would only get the room sizes, ceiling heights and character they wanted in an old house. The company found them a £265,000 house being built from reclaimed bricks and Welsh slates at Whiteparish, near Salisbury.

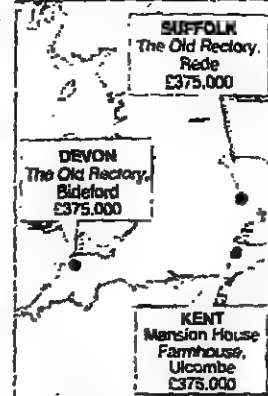
"Our brief laid down a number of stringent requirements and, at times, we despaired of finding more than half of them in any one house," Mr Fall says. "Now, we have found everything we want."

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Devon: The Old Rectory, Littleham, Bideford. Former rectory in 14 acres of gardens and parkland. Five bedrooms, four bathrooms, dining room, sitting room, drawing room, billiards room, kitchen and cloakroom. Coach house/garaging and workshop. About £375,000 (Knight, Frank & Rutley, 01392 423111).



Kent: Mansion House Farmhouse, Ulcombe. Grade II listed Georgian farmhouse in 3.5 acres of gardens and paddocks. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), three reception rooms, study, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, lobby and cloakroom. About £375,000 (GA Town & Country, 01622 765241).



Suffolk: The Old Rectory, Rede, near Bury St Edmunds. Victorian former rectory in five acres. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms, four reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom and cellar. About £375,000 (Bidwells, 01284 767338).

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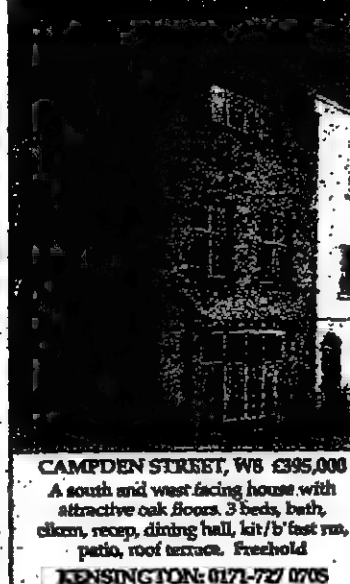
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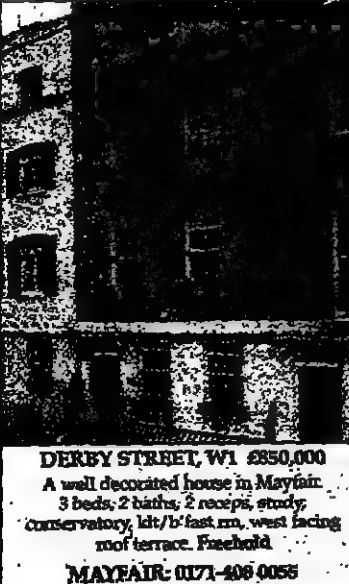
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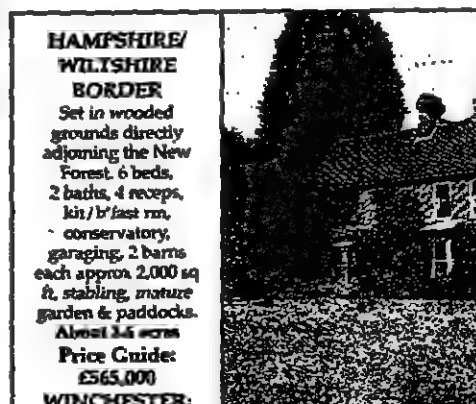
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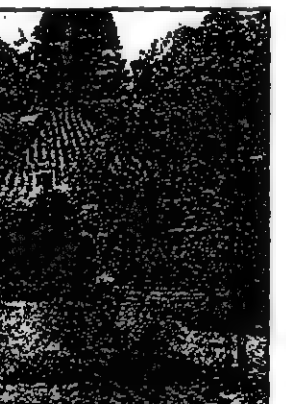
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Near Cirencester
A well proportioned period house in a delightful Cotswold village midway between Cirencester and Cheltenham. 4 beds, 3 baths, recep hall, 3 recep, kit/b fast rm with Aga, elerm, utility rm. About 1/2 acre.
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Set in wooded grounds directly adjoining the New Forest. 6 beds, 2 baths, 4 recep, kit/b fast rm, conservatory, garaging, 2 barns each approx 2,000 sq ft, stabling, mature garden & paddocks. About 1.5 acres.
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A beautifully presented house with lovely grounds on Farnham's Southern fringe. 5 beds, 4 baths, 3 recep, sun loggia, kit/b fast rm, playrm, cellar, utility rm, gardens, double garage, outbuildings. About 1.5 acres.
Price Guide: £495,000
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A luxurious, listed barn conversion of approx 6,000 sq ft. 6 beds, 2 dressing rms, 3 baths, shower rm, recep hall, 3 recep, kit/b fast rm, utility rm, elerm, office, games/snooker rm/studio, gardens, paddock, garage. About 1.75 acres.
Price Guide: £340,000
OXFORD: 01865 311522



OXFORDSHIRE
Bodicote
A luxurious, listed barn conversion of approx 6,000 sq ft. 6 beds, 2 dressing rms, 3 baths, shower rm, recep hall, 3 recep, kit/b fast rm, utility rm, elerm, office, games/snooker rm/studio, gardens, paddock, garage. About 1.75 acres.
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BOOKS

Nigella Lawson on a many-sided heroine bearing a 1950s hallmark

Woman's ways

The splitting of the title of Fay Weldon's newest novel denotes more than one kind of rupture: as in split up and split-personality, that's to say divorce and the fragmentation of the self. Angelica, betrayed and abandoned by her husband, copes with this rejection by involuntarily developing a multiple personality.

This can jar. It reads at times like a pastiche of that familiar finger-jabbing, incessantly apostrophising style, the prose that plunges within moments from the staccato to the whirlingly whimsical.

SPLITTING
By Fay Weldon
Flamingo, £14.99

then, Weldon stopped writing in her own style and started parodying it some years ago. Splitting, for all that, is a jaunty enough read: it has a definite, interest-awakening momentum. Even when she irritates, Weldon never bores,

and there is something admirable in that confident fidelity to her own way of seeing and defining the world, the way she puts her stamp on it. There is something of the fable about this book. Not quite a fable for our age, maybe — for Weldon's age, her golden age, is really a couple of decades or so ago. This is not to say that she is out

of date exactly, but she is a period writer; she summoned up a time. Although she's meant to be young, our heroine, in all her manifestations, bears the hallmark of 1950s-reared womanhood: embattled, frightened, whiny and inclined towards bolshie self-pity. The contemporary reader who is nearer the age of the protagonist might be rather inclined to wonder at the alimony-hunting histrionics and to hiss at the heroine, through grating teeth, to get a grip. Luckily, by the end, she does. As, characteristically teasingly, does Weldon.

The bite of Britain's best short stories

NEW WRITING
VOLUME 4
Edited by A.S. Byatt
and Alan Hollinghurst
Vintage, £5.99

RAconteur 4
Edited by Graham Lord
Raconteur Publications, £4.99

There is no need to look any further than the covers of these volumes to work out the difference between them. *New Writing 4* has a stylish Albert Irvin abstract, and the serious names of its editors prominently displayed; *Raconteur 4* with a yellow medallion and bold black type shouts: "You can win £10,000 for a story!"

And story is what they mean. No tricks, please. Nothing too abstract — most of the tales found in this volume could be described as yarns. Some of them are jolly good, too, despite a lesser effort from William Boyd and a tale by the late James Herriot that does his memory no justice.

But the top prizewinner's tale, *Crossing the Glacier*, by Bertie Doherty, doesn't look at all bad next to a William Saroyan rerun, *Little Caruso*. Across the Water by Katherine Roberts and Hello... How Might I Help You? by Chris Bertram both have bite. But perhaps the most enjoyable is Beryl Bainbridge's essay on short fiction in which she argues for stories with a beginning, a middle and an end, and praises Poppy Z. Brite because "her sentences

are short and to the point and make one see pictures."

A.S. Byatt's definition of good writing is perhaps broader than this, but she does decry the modern writer's obsessions, despairing at a fictional "world in which most of the action was penetration either by the penis or the knife or the needle, where everything dripped with blood or other fluids."

No Poppy Z. Brite here. This is a strong, varied collection, including, as *New Writing* always does, short fiction, novel extracts, poetry and essays. This volume is, as Alan Hollinghurst promises, "almost wholly unpredictable": it is nearly impossible to pick out themes or patterns, but it is worth noting the number of pieces concerned with war or exile — particularly strongly is the pairing of Christopher Hope's essay on the former Yugoslavia with Stephen Gray's bitter *Formerly*.

The dead, as Hope remarks, "are bad nationalists", and their non-partisan ghosts haunt this volume, from Andrew Motion's poem *Europa: A Fragment* to the shard of Joan Michelson's novel, *Reconstructions from a Dutch Childhood*.

It is a pleasure, at the close of the millennium, to find British writing so outward looking. *New Writing 4* is a reassuring signpost on the path ahead.

ERICA WAGNER



Land's End, an engraving by William Daniell, from *A Voyage Round Great Britain* (Spellmount, £25). David Addy has retraced the Victorian artist's steps from Sheerness to Land's End and reproduces the same views in watercolour

Boy George's private life was spectacularly at odds with his cuddly image

At the height of his fame, Boy George famously told *Woman* magazine that he would rather drink tea than have sex. It was a typical Georgian riposte — arch, knowing, outrageous. For, as this candid and entertaining autobiography shows, George was anything but celibate: he had an intense, often fractious, relationship with fellow band member John Mosely, as well as a chain of random encounters with unknown men he picked up in bars or night clubs. He was indeed sexually voracious, confessing here to being a "lust-driven creature" for whom sex was "the ultimate fix".

But this secret life was something about which he never spoke in interviews, fearful that he might alienate his thousands of teenage fans and the Radio 2 audience that he and his advisers had nurtured so meticulously.

Oh Boy, what a contradiction

TAKE IT LIKE A MAN: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF BOY GEORGE
Sidgwick & Jackson, £15.99

This meant that his public image was spectacularly at odds with his private self, the self that was living fabulously and wildly, gorging on drugs, food and sex, trashing hotel rooms and bawling with friends.

So when, in 1986, *The Sun* broke the story of his heroin addiction, his

admirers were astonished to learn that cuddly, androgynous, sexually abstemious George, so comfortable swapping jokes with Terry Wogan and Noel Edmonds, was, in fact, a sad, broken man.

Born into a poor Irish family in south-east London, George O'Dowd's rise was as swift as it was unexpected. Impatient with convention and bored with suburbia, he sought solace on the London club scene, mixing with designers, starlets, eccentrics. Dis, drag

queens — anyone on the move, anyone influential.

He moved through this closed world with swaggering self-confidence, buoyed by the certainty of his success. By his own admission he was exotic, demanding and brash, but he was also naive and easily hurt. Many pages are devoted to the memory of broken love affairs and petty jealousies.

Yet for George and his many homosexual friends this really was their time, their *bellis époque*, before AIDS laid waste to so many of them. One suspects that for all Boy George's current flirtation with vegetarianism and mysticism, those days really were the happiest, and most creative, of his life. Certainly, he has never since come close to matching those first sublime songs that he wrote for Culture Club.

JASON COWLEY

A murder leads to a tangle of family relationships

BORROWED TIME
By Robert Goddard
Bantam, £15.99

ROBERT Goddard is the sort of writer publishers hate to love. He is an accomplished writer who, for the best part of a decade, has been on the "sure to be a mega-seller" lists without getting there.

The trouble is that having one's prose compared to Daphne Du Maurier rather than, say, Jeffrey Archer is a backhanded compliment in the blockbuster business, despite being an infinitely greater literary tribute. In Goddard's case it is also accurate. *Borrowed Time* is an elegant piece of writing, a thriller in the classic storytelling sense: more Rebecca than Red October.

In his craftsmanship and approach, Goddard might be

Bee in a spider's web

considered an English Patricia Highsmith. But it is the exceptionally English character of *Borrowed Time* which is so refreshing in a genre dominated by transatlanticisms.

The hero, Robin Timariot, a Brussels Eurocrat inspired to desert by the call to save his quintessentially English ailing family firm, finds that a chance meeting with a beautiful woman on a windy ridge in the Welsh borders changes his life. But not in the way he might have hoped. Within

hours of their parting, she is found raped and murdered.

Although Timariot is never a suspect, his evidence leads him to be drawn into the investigation, caught up in the dead woman's family relationships like a bumble bee in a spider's web. Against the high drama of the investigation and trial, the shoddy dealings that threaten the Timariot family business form a sub-plot that plays a crucial role in binding the two strands.

This is a book about fate and fatalism, about the consequences of action and inaction, about human blindness to the chain of events we unleash and how we are often the victims of our own folly. A hugely enjoyable read. But I am not sure it will put Goddard on the best-seller list.

PETER MILLAR

Want to write a novel?

Lynne Truss on writing her first book

stuff, the value of which is ultimately a matter of opinion. The work! The anxiety! When I started, I thought chapter plans were a groovy idea: I thought a scheme for the whole book might be neat too. I still think so. But unfortunately the only way I could write was to take each sentence as it came, and see how things developed. "You damn it, son! I'll play it," I said. It sounds fun to make it up as you go along. You keep adding characters, messing them about, and then you stick the whole thing in an envelope

marked "Novel. For immediate publication." But of course it is not fun.

Whenever people asked "How's the book going?" I would give them a warning flash of eye-white and then bite them. "What an ingenious plot!" people said afterwards. And I laughed carelessly. "Really? I'm so glad."

My friend Ann thought I'd planned it all with file cards and cross-references. But this novel was built on fear, cemented by paranoia. My second one is progressing in the same harrowing fashion. The fear is that, having built up comic situations, there may not be a comic denouement.

Being a novelist, it turns out, is like parenting — you must make everything turn out well for other people, and



Lynne Truss plotting

keep a brave face. Tell your babies what a worry they are, and you might turn on the computer and find a row of little hanging bodies, like the ones in *Jude the Obscure*. "Done because we were too lazy," how could you live with yourself after that? How?

With One Lousy Free Packet of Seed (Penguin, £4.99) is published in paperback on April 27

Spell of a witch report

THE passion and conflict of children's friendships often make adult loyalties look tame. This theme is well explored by Ann Turnbull in *No Friend of Mine* (Walker, £3.99) in which two boys transcend class divisions to form an ill-fated bond in Thirties England.

Turnbull includes plenty of period detail to fascinate boys of ten upwards — as does Mildred D. Taylor in *The Well* (Collins, £9.99). Here, racial tension becomes unbearable for the family of a black farmer in Mississippi in the early 1900s — the story is tightly told in the voice of an eleven-year-old boy.

Nearer home, eight-year-old Katie in *The Witch Repair* by Marianne MacDonald (Heinemann, £7.99) looks at a shop sign a second time to find it says "Watch", not "Witch". Repair after all. So how come the odd lady behind the

counter can make broken watches play tunes, and ordinary television sets set 36 channels? She conjures up friends for Katie at her new school, too — or does Katie do that for herself?

Equally enjoyable witchcraft is to be found in Anne Lake's fast-paced *The Box that Joanne Found* (Oxford, £8.99). Both books will suit girls of eight and up. The outstanding Jacqueline Wilson needs no magic in *Double Act* (Doubleday, £8.99) to resolve the conflicts between identical twins Ruby and Garnet, and between them and their father's long-suffering girlfriend. Only time and the painful process of growing up can do that in this hilarious tale which contains dark notes that ring very true. For nine years upwards.

Walker "sprinters" are an excellent series for six-to-eight-year-olds who are shakily moving into "proper" books. One of the best is Tony Wilkinson's *Hector the Rat* (£2.99). Hector cleans his room from top to bottom when his mother orders him to dirty it, so he is turned out of the family sewer to seek his fortune above ground.

I'm in love with Jelly Haystack, the star of *The New Dress* by Ivor Cutler (Bodley Head, £8.99) because, despite its simple domestic setting this is a genuinely original picture book for the under-fives. Claudio Munoz's drawings contrasting Jelly with her younger hair, and her graceful, blonde mother are touching and measurable.

Did Dr Seuss (Theodor Seuss Geisel) intend to

publish *Daisy-Head Mayzie* (HarperCollins, £6.99)? The manuscript was found by his widow after his death, and it is a poor thing. The drawings are bland, the rhymes rotten and the story feeble — a sad memorial to the creator of *The Cat in the Hat*, who is here reduced to a superfluous narrator.

By contrast, nearly 100 years after its first publication, Kenneth Grahame's *The Reluctant Dragon* (Methuen, £8.99) stands the test of time well. Modern children will pick up the dated language and concepts — "So glad to meet you, St. George," began the dragon rather nervously. — better than many adults would believe. For ages nine upwards (or to be read to younger children), and with original drawings by E.H. Shepherd.

SARAH JOHNSON

The Times Bestsellers

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NEW IN PAPERBACK

OLEANDER
JACARANDA
By Penelope Lively
Penguin, £5.99
At the centre of this memoir of a lonely colonial childhood is Lively — a beady-eyed observer of flora, fauna, family, visitors and natives in Egypt. Such events as the annual visit of the snake-charmer or a glimpse of de Gaulle in his dressing-gown, are recorded with an intensity beside which the desert, the empire, or the war, seem secondary. Lively captures the atmosphere and enigma of a vanished time.

MALCOLM
By James Purdy
Serpent's Tail, £8.99
First published in 1959, this fantastical story of an innocent's bewildering adventures in adult society mixes melodrama, suggestiveness and zany comedy. A beautiful boy sits on a bench, waiting eternally for his father. He meets in swift succession a mortician, a midwife, a billionaire, and a burglar, before marrying an American chanteuse. Dorothy Parker loved this dizzy novel.

LAND GIRLS
By Angela Huth
Abacus, £5.99
It is October 1941 and three land girls arrive at the Lawrence's West Country farm: scholarly, Cambridge-educated Ag, Surrey girl Stella, and sex-mad Pru. Huth's pleasant, undemanding novel follows their friendship through the war as they buckle down to farm work and start growing up. There are no real surprises in the three main characters but Huth is good on the rhythms of long marriages, like that of the Lawrence's, and on the texture of life in rural wartime England.

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF PETER SELLERS
By Roger Lewis
Arrow, £9.99
To protest against Arabs residing in his favourite hotel, Sellers led a goat into the Dorchester announcing that he was going to kill and barbecue up in his bathroom. The mischief, though amusing, is equally indicative of the monstrous egotism that blighted the great actor's private life and spread across his (frequently poor) films. This fierce account of "twisted greatness" is often suffocatingly personal, but it is also wickedly funny and unflinchingly candid.



HEINRICH BÖLL
Irish Journal
By Heinrich Böll
Minerva, £6.99
Travelling across Ireland with three children and two women in the mid-1950s, Böll found a place where it was possible to play truant from Europe and the shadow of war. His delightful journals consider everything from tea-drinking to the movies, from priests to poverty. He notices the cheapness of the "devotional industry", relishes Irish humour, and has troubling visions of history as flotsam. Every page is a gem, full of warmth, wisdom, compassion and amusement.

Alison Burns, Hazel Leslie, Jake Michie

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[illegible]

Meet the best pest control on four legs

Ferrets are suddenly in demand from farmers as the greenest way to keep the rabbit population in check

The ferret, as kept by Eddie Grundy of The Archers, is shedding its lowly image and being born again — as a green form of pest control. Now that the rabbit population is back to its pre-madness levels, the culling disease was introduced 40 years ago, ferrets are being used to keep numbers in check, says Kim Lathen, president of the National Ferret Welfare Society.

Nets are used to cover the exits to a warren and to catch rabbits as they are chased out by the ferrets. The rabbits' necks are then broken. Ferreters claim that this is the most humane and environmentally friendly way of controlling rabbits. It is also the cheapest; there are no hunting fees and groups take no payment beyond keeping the catch.

The society, whose chief aim is to improve the image of ferrets and the conditions in which they are kept, is not the only ferret group in Britain, but it is the largest, with 1,300 members. It reports a 100 per cent rise in requests for help with rabbit control from farmers, land agents and foresters since 1993.

But landowners have not always helped themselves, says Mrs Lathen. "Some of our members lost their ferretting rights when land was

turned into wildlife reserves, where field sports are not allowed. Often people coming into the country from the towns don't understand field sports and think that if they leave everything to nature it will all balance out. It won't."

A succession of mild winters is the main cause of the rabbit boom: in some areas rabbits are breeding all year round. Unlike their main prey, ferrets are not wild animals but domesticated polecats, possibly introduced by the Romans. And unlike some of their relatives — the marten, badger, stoat, mink, otter, weasel and stoat — ferrets enjoy being handled. They can also be taken for walks: the NFWS sells leads and harnesses along with ferret shampoo and vitamins.

Wendy Brett, who co-founded the Essex branch of the NFWS in 1986, used to walk to the pub with Rose, her favourite ferret, draped around her shoulders. "But I stopped when I realised that motorists were looking at my ferret instead of at the road."

"Neutered males make the best pets," she says. "Apart from the females' more common health problems, males (called 'boobs') are friendlier. Females (jills) are more aloof."

Her interest in ferrets began when she was 14. "My father, who breeds them, brought one home and told me to look after



Wendy Brett takes in up to 70 unwanted ferrets at a time then lends them out at £5 each

It. For years I fed my ferrets on bread and milk not realising that they eat wild meat such as pigeons, rabbits and pheasants."

Ferrets have in the past been bred for their fur (fitch) and are harder than mink, being able to withstand much lower temperatures. As a result, there are more ferrets than anyone needs and the emphasis is on neutering not breeding. Mrs Brett, like Mrs Lathen, has taken in up to 70 unwanted ferrets at a time and lends them out at £5 each.

Mrs Brett and her colleagues put radio collars on their ferrets so they can be traced and dug out if they get stuck in a warren. The day's

catch provides a hedgerow meal for both the ferrets and their handlers. "I would never shoot rabbits," Mrs Brett says. "Who wants to eat a rabbit full of lead when they can have a clean animal?"

The umbrella term "blood sports" angers her. "I don't support fox hunting and I don't agree with killing or who don't have the bottle to kill their own supper. Now owners are declaring themselves."

JENNY McCLEAN
The National Ferret Welfare Society, c/o The Gwent Lake Hotel, Islwyn-dry, Gwent, NP23 5LW Tel: 01493 43057.

All those in flavour

I regret to have to tell you that the Empress is no longer with us. As she was turned out to be somewhat less than imperial, and more than useless at producing calves. She was a fine-looking animal and I had great plans for her, especially as her full and proper name was Times Empress, in honour of her association with this newspaper. From the Empress I imagined I might breed a bull so mighty in stature that he would eclipse all others. I thought Times Roman would be a good name for him.

But now it is all on hold: for despite all efforts, the Empress was never able to bear a calf. We started when she was two years old and tried artificial insemination. We saw her come on heat, nuzzle the other cows, and generally fluster her eyes at anything else on four legs. I instantly summoned the test-tube wizard to perform what was to become a three-weekly fertility ritual. After six months, and a threat from the artificial insemination centre that they might have to bill us for extra rubber gloves, we called it a day. I started to search for a bull.

Fortunately, I did not have far to look. In the next village, a fine Red Poll bull named Steady Eddie was ready, and only too willing. He arrived, snorting and pawing the ramp of the trailer. "Steady, Steady, Eddie," I shouted, and directed him to his new home. It was not to be. As regular as clockwork, the Empress started her three-weekly snorting of the handbag and winking at the boys, showing she was not in calf. Eddie remained steady

and dutiful despite my fears that such failure might so demoralise him that he would be forced into therapy. I was left with no option but to ring the butcher.

But shed no tear for the Empress, for there is a lesson for all of us in what happened next. The butcher rang to tell me the joints of meat were ready for collection. As she was three years old he had allowed the carcass to hang for a full three weeks to guarantee tenderness and flavour. In fact, so delicious did the meat appear that he confided to me that, while cutting and rolling the sirloin, he had taken a slice from the end of the joint, which he then grilled for his lunch. He declared it to be a stunning piece of beef.

The accepted wisdom among the modern commercial butchery trade is that meat from old breeds of farm animals, like Red Poll cattle, is next to useless. Yet here was a butcher finding irresistible that which his commercial instincts were telling him should stum.

It is now my belief that our rare breeds of farm animal are on the verge of a promising commercial future. This

is good news for conservationists, animal welfare campaigners and lovers of good meat. But it is good news for the breeders? Paradoxically, the more of our rare breeds that end up on the butcher's hook, the better. In order to guarantee a future for these breeds, they need to be of commercial value, and not just exhibits to be viewed at farm parks. They need to be bred in larger numbers to ensure a wide genetic base from which to select the best animals for future breeding.

Luckily, their somewhat primitive constitutions mitigate against their suitability for use in intensive farming systems, and so wider farming of rare breeds is more environmental and animal friendly.

Consumers, too, are beginning to realise that the meat industry is not necessarily on their side, and an initiative by the worthy Rare Breeds Survival Trust is proving a success. Through selected shops accredited by the Trust, of which there are a couple

in the West Country and one on the Yorkshire Wolds, it is now possible to shop for a leg of Gloucester Old Spot, a pound of Tamworth sausages, a British White mutton steak, or whatever. We buy wine on the basis of where it was grown. Why should the same subtleties of choice not be applied to meat?

As far as this farm is concerned, I am happy to report that our other cow, Silbury, has recently produced a fine heifer calf. We are seeking a Times-herd name for her. The only suggestion so far is Times. They are a 'Changin'. Not the easiest name to shout across the meadow, but appropriate I think.



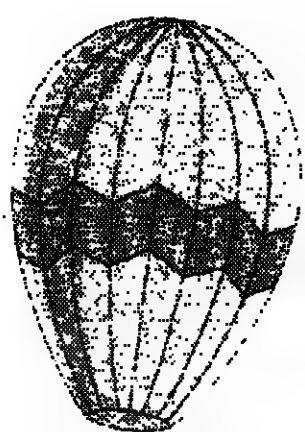
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WEEKEND SATURDAY APRIL 22 1995

18

TRAVEL

CARIBBEAN: Some hotels just tolerate children, others keep them happy

Taking the children away

Panic in the pre-dawn darkness as weeks of planning dissolve into a mad scramble to get three children up, dressed, fed and into a car without leaving them or the odd passport behind.

One thousand miles later, somewhere over the Azores on a BA flight from Gatwick to Grenada in the West Indies, a small expletive is muttered into a large gin and tonic. A vital bag containing swimsuits, children's books and games has been left behind. A brief marital skirmish flares and subsides. At least we have got the best seats in the plane. Row 28 in BA's new 747s is well set back from the bulkhead in the no-smoking economy section, allowing a cot to be put up with enough room to stretch out and watch the film in comfort.

The flight is 11 hours with a stopover in Antigua, a long haul for children aged 12 years, 3½ and 22 months. It is 10pm at night, London time, when we stagger into the Calabash Hotel, thankfully a mere 10 minutes from the airport.

Past the reception desk a dining room opens onto a large lawn of tiger grass across which ancient palm trees plod down to the beach 100 yards away. Wild orchids tumble down from a trellis ceiling cleverly shedding white seedless blossom onto the crisp linen of the dining tables.

It is dusk and as the moon comes up we flop onto the beach watching the children paddle and swim in warm water. The sand has just the texture from which spectacular castles can be made. After our last bucket and spade holiday in Devon, which somehow cost £2,500 for two miserable weeks, we had sworn never again. So here we were, on a holiday with the children, sans nanny, and determined that we were going to have as good a time as they did.

The Calabash is a small but quietly grand hotel which has just changed its rules to allow families at any time of the year except February. The 32 rooms are all suites, with sitting room and patio set in a horseshoe of villas around the garden. The beach, which frames a small bay dotted with yachts, slopes gently into warm shallow water that de-



Elizabeth MacManus with a hotel staff member

lights the youngest with armbands as much as the eldest with snorkel and flippers. Grand plans to teach Nicholas, 22 months, to swim and Emily, 12, to windsurf evaporate when it becomes clear that all they want to do is mess around in sand and sea. So we let them get on with it and lounge under the thick leaves of a seagrape tree, munch ice-cold watermelon for elves, and drink rum-punch in the beach bar at noon.

The children fall upon their food the moment the restaurant opens at 12.30pm. High chairs come whizzing up with half-price portions of fresh fish and locally grown pumpkin, crispbread (a small marrow), butternut squash and avocado, all served with lashings of non-tropical ketchup. And when the sun threatens to burn through the Factor 20, or when the children are too tired to do anything else, the air-conditioned snooker room has a huge video TV on which we put on our own carefully packed Walt Disney classics.

There are no other children at the hotel, but several acres of garden and beach act as a buffer between our trio and the other guests, mostly elderly English gentfolk with a taste for exotic cocktails and bantered copies of Dickens. The best of times are breakfast, which is served to order with freshly squeezed fruit juice on the patio from 7am.



Children aged 4 to 12 play under supervision at the Windjammer Hotel on St Lucia.

the food in the main dining room which is consistently excellent, and the owner, British businessman Leo Garbutt, who has three young children himself and thus made us really welcome. The only aggravation is the mosquitoes: nippy but not malarial.

Grenada, which most people last heard of when the US invaded in 1983 to throw out a violent Marxist regime, is a pleasant surprise. The capital, St George's, is the prettiest in the Caribbean: there are some good local restaurants and the sister islands of Carriacou and Petit Martinique are reportedly magical.

After just a week we somewhat reluctantly take an

hour's flight north for the second half of the holiday, in St Lucia. While the Calabash does well with young families without seeming to try, the Windjammer Landing, a resort complex on the north coast, tries very hard indeed.

Children from 4 to 12 are whisked away at 10am to be given a day of activities and returned at four in the afternoon. Once the shock of consigning one's children to a day of beachcombing, swimming, boating and party games with complete strangers wears off the arrangement works well. Nervous mothers please note: you can check up on your children at any point in the programme.

With five restaurants, four pools and 400 beds all in individual villas, this is a highly organised resort which takes much of the hassle out of a family holiday. There are

baby sitters at £3.50 an hour and a decent shop in the hotel from which to stock the well-equipped villa kitchens.

Although the West Indies has long been marketed as a rich man's playground in the European winter, the smart time to take the family is in the English summer, when the Caribbean offers low season rates. Daytime temperatures remain around 80F and, although June to December is the rainy season, all this means is an occasional downpour which rarely lasts more than an hour and is usually at night.

And if you think that nothing can quite match the magic of rock pools brimming with mystery once an ebb tide has uncovered a Devon beach, imagine watching your daughter riding bareback into the sea or playing the drums in a steel band under a Caribbean moon.

JAMES MACMANUS

Fact File

- The author travelled with Caribbeans (0171-581 3517).
- Seven nights at the Calabash on Grenada cost from £1,002 per adult (children under 12 from £469, including breakfast). Half-board is just £20 each daily (£16 for children). A second week is free (excluding meals) between July 2 and October 29, 1995.
- Seven nights at Windjammer Beach Resort on St Lucia between April and November start at £776 per adult sharing.
- For alternative budget accommodation try the Rex St Lucian on St Lucia or the Rex Grenadian on Grenada. Prices exclude meals. Child discounts are available.
- All the above prices include scheduled return flights from London (Gatwick) on British Airways.

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Where will we go next?

THE NEXT foreign destinations to get the British package "treatment" will be Dubai and Sri Lanka, writes Harvey Elliott.

Just over 4,000 Britons visited Dubai and the Emirates last year. Next winter the giant Thomson group plans to carry over 6,000.

The British holidaymaker has become more adventurous and prepared to travel farther, to parts of the world which until now have never seen Union Jack swimming shorts.

Already, scouts from the big three operators - Thomson, First Choice and Airtours - are looking for new hotels

which offer good, cheap, accommodation with an airport nearby, few health problems and a local infrastructure which is capable of ferrying coach loads of tourists to

sample "local village life".

The last destination to fit the bill was the Dominican Republic, which will this year attract more British tourists than Barbados.

So where next? The competing companies all agree that central and southern America, especially Brazil and Costa Rica, are ripe for the big sell, as is Haiti, which adjoins the Dominican Republic and is said to possess some of the most beautiful beaches and scenery in the Caribbean. After Haiti, the scouts believe, will come Cuba, then Vietnam, and virtually the whole of the Far East.

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TRAVEL

NEPAL: Christine Wheeler on the exhilaration of tracking rhino, climbing peaks and living under canvas

ROBERT HARDING



The guides in the Royal Chitwan National Park take their elephants down to the Narayani River to drink after a morning in the forest. The vantage point of the howdah affords visitors the occasional glimpse of a rhinoceros or tiger

Trek or treat in the heart of the Himalayas

Everything I had been told about Nepal was wrong. Never has such a small mountain kingdom been saddled with so many clichés. Apparently, Nepal was only for the leftover children of the 1960s who weaved along the hippie trail in search of a personal nirvana only previously found growing in small pots in the back bedroom. Or it was for the committed climber who crosses the Andes in a single afternoon.

What I found was a gentle, small piece of Asia seemingly covered in gauze. In contrast to the primary colours and harsh rural life found elsewhere on the sub-continent, it was gentle despite the almost overwhelming presence of Nepal's Himalayan range that, wherever you go, forms a majestic backdrop of major legends and scenery.

If you are venturing long haul, but prefer a sanitised destination, linger only long enough in chaotic, dirty, Kathmandu to visit Durbar Square, with its ancient palaces, temples and stupas, the monuments to Nepal's long history as a crossroads between India and Tibet.

Then head for rural Nepal, where visitors who know nothing of Woodstock can camp high up on a mountain ridge and search for rhinoceros and tiger on elephant-back on the Terai plain.

Kathmandu still carries the legacy of dollar-a-day hippy dormitories, but the city has a number of five-star hotels which are often used as launchpads to the country's interior. Hence the common sight of dishevelled guests in "Tiger Trek" T-shirts and walking boots weighing more than their luggage, en route to the mountains, who mill in the hotel's immaculate public rooms.

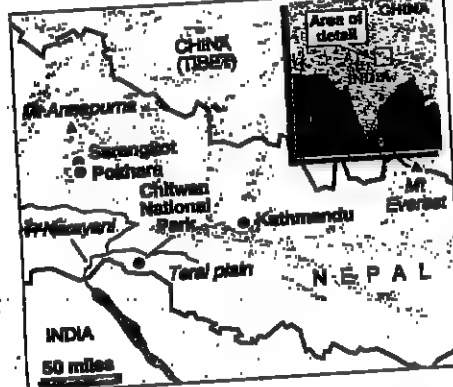
Don't bother to pack the Versace suit Chanel No 5 in anticipation of a sophisticated nightlife—there isn't any, and mosquito repellent will outlast your trip. Nepal is about early nights and dawn starts. From Kathmandu, we flew to Pokhara, where barrels of supplies on their way to a base

camp in the Annapurna mountain range littered the landing strip. This looked serious. Half an hour later and we were to realise how serious. There is absolutely no way we can get from down here to up there, protested our metropolitan group of trekkers as we gazed at our own small Himalaya, 2,000 feet seemingly vertically up to our overnight camp at Sarangkot.

However, closely monitored by our Everest-experienced Sherpa guides, we scrambled up steep paths and ambled through fertile farming hamlets. We stepped smartly aside as a camp, luggage, kitchen and food packed in giant wicker baskets on the backs of a dozen Sherpas zipped past at depressing speed.

The monsoon had left the countryside lush and green from the dark hills rising up from still lakes to the pale paddy fields terracing the side of the valley below. We trudged into Sarangkot as the sunset dyed the mountain peaks crimson above the clouds.

But what climbs up must get down. This is tricky when the monsoon has obliterated what passes for paths. Giddy with



the previous day's triumphant ascent, we leapt confidently on to rickety stone walls to negotiate our way between, on the one hand flooded paths and, on the other, a sheer drop to oblivion through the cloud beneath. And we got stuck halfway, and had to be rescued by the ever-vigilant Sherpas.

Unless you are visiting Nepal for the single purpose of climbing to high altitudes—and much higher, longer, tougher treks can be arranged—do visit the plains and forests of the Royal Chitwan National Park, which was established in 1973.

The road south to Chitwan is a narrow ribbon of blind Z-bends, clinging to the side of a cliff and overhanging deep gorges and a fast-flowing river.

A system of horn-holding from luridly painted lorries belching black smoke, avoids most disasters, although judging by the wrecked bus dangling over the edge of the drop, there was some room for misunderstanding.

Having inched around landslides and forded rivers, I had assumed that it would be better to arrive than to travel. It was not.

In small wooden cages, eyes tightly shut and clutching lifejackets, we crossed the swollen Narayani River bordering the Park.

Waiting on the other side were Soft Voice and Jasmine Flower, our elephant transport to our camp in the forest.

The Park claims that its rhinoceros population has grown from 250 to more than 400, while its tigers have increased from 35 to about 80. It is also a twitcher's paradise.

Although I correctly identified a peacock, in truth I cannot tell a pigeon from a parakeet, a grave disappointment to our naturalist guide,

who gave me his bird book to look at instead. The group giggled.

Temple Tiger camp has no perimeter fence and its 20 tents are secluded among the forest's trees. Noisy electricity generators, and a camp lit up like the Queen Mary, would be an unacceptable intrusion in the forest, so kerosene lamps and torches are issued to visitors.

City folk not trained in woodcraft are forbidden to wander alone after dark without a guard, and are ordered to move lamps outside tents at nightfall to curb the curiosity of rhinoceroses and tigers.

I took this information surprisingly calmly for one who needs resuscitating on spotting a spider in the bath. Now I was contemplating a tiger making house calls at midnight—and bird-watching at dusk in a forest where large mammals were apt to charge, knowing my sole protection was our guide's stout wooden

gave and book on ornithology. (Only the anti-poacher patrols carry guns.)

The best time to see tiger is

during February and March when local villagers cut down the tall grass. Chitwan refuses to lay bait, thereby reducing tiger to an undignified—and lazy—sideshow for tourists. We only saw fresh paw prints 100 yards from camp. But we did see rhinoceroses.

At first light we were making stately progress rocking on the backs of our elephants as they bulldozed their way through vegetation higher than their eye, and covering us with the white down from the giant ostrich feathers of grass which made the elephants sneeze.

Suddenly, soft vibration from their stomachs warned of danger close by. The familiar prehistoric shape of a rhinoceros loomed ahead then immediately spun away, crashing through the undergrowth. We followed in the elephant equivalent of hot pursuit, creeping forward, the elephants gently vibrating, circling our quarry which was snorting somewhere ahead.

High on the howdah we felt our eyebrows shoot up as the elephants barged blindly into dense undergrowth where no tourist had been before and was unlikely to get far now, especially if a rhinoceros stood in the way.

But he slipped the net, the violent thrashing of vegetation plotting his escape. It did not matter much; we enjoyed the matter much; we enjoyed the timeless silence plodding along the river bank or beneath the forest canopy, and in Nepal there is always another tent, another dawn, another adventure.

Fact File

□ The writer was a guest of Royal Nepal Airlines and Cox & Kings (Gordon House, 10 Greencoat Place, SW1P 1PH, 071-873-5000) and stayed at Hotel Soaltee Holiday Inn, Crowne Plaza in Kathmandu, Fish Tail Lodge in Pokhara and Temple Tiger Wildlife Camp in Chitwan National Park.

□ Cox & Kings has a 13-day Royal Nepal tour which includes four nights in Kathmandu, a three-day trek and three nights in Chitwan National Park. Cost: £1,835 between October 1 and November 30; £1,795 between December 3 and 15.

□ Cox & Kings also offers extensions: the seven-day Nepalese Wildlife tour including three nights in Chitwan National Park (£1,075); and a six-day Nepal Extension using Kathmandu as a base (£655).

□ Royal Nepal Airlines return economy flight from Gatwick to Kathmandu costs £735.

□ Indian Airlines or Royal Nepal Airlines economy return from Delhi to Kathmandu costs £177.

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GREECE: Sally Baker learns to windsurf and sail off the coast of Zakynthos

At home among the buoys

There were three men in a boat — the consultant urologist, the QC and me. (There were four actually, and two of us were women, but let's not spoil a tale.)

The boat was a Wayfarer, and we were taking part in a race off a Greek island, and — this is the point — I had never sailed before. But just a few days after arriving at the Peligoni Club on Zakynthos, I had the sun in my face and salt spray on my lips and the jib sheet in my hand, and I was loving every minute. Until we had to gybe, took a lot of water on board, and crossed the finish line a shameful third, singing *What Shall We Do With The Drunken Sailor* and pumping like mad. "Lovely flow," murmured the urologist approvingly.

Arriving at Peligoni is like arriving at a new school mid-term. All the other chaps were drinking in the bar or lunching in the shade of the verandah in various stages of undress and sobriety, talking and laughing, studying the notices on the board for the day's activities, dashing purposefully to "beginner's windsurfing" or "Laser tactics" or "rock jumping with Colin", signing up for "Vanessa's monastery walk" or "Picnic-marathon".

"Everyone out to the pontoon for water polo," yelled a deeply tanned girl — staff or guest, it was impossible to say. A young man armed with goggles and snorkels led a gaggle of laughing children to a dinghy. We new boys and girls stood around uncertainly on the verandah of the club-house, shifting from foot to foot, until we were rescued by a kindly staff member, who discerned our beginner status by our pallor.

And just like school, by day two we were in with the in-crowd, yelling and dashing and lounging with aplomb: and by the following week's changeover day we were positive bullies, looking forward to lording it over the apprehensive, pale newcomers.

Peligoni is the five-year-old brainchild of John and Vanessa Alexander, who

abandoned the London rat race to indulge their twin passions for sailing and Zakynthos. Accommodation is in a dozen or more houses and cottages scattered on the hillside behind the clubhouse. All are individual, of hugely varying antiquity and size, some owned by the Alexanders, some owned by British friends they enticed out there to share the fun, some Greek-owned. A few are within walking distance of the club, but most require a hire car.

The Alexanders are enthusiastic and informal hosts, finding time to look after guests while raising their three small daughters on site.

But the main business of the day at Peligoni is water sports, and while the brochure lulls you into a false sense of security by promising that participation is entirely voluntary, the glitter of sunlight on azure sea exerts a dangerous desire in even the most committed landlubber to be on or in the water, clear water, rather than gazing at it from an umbrella-shaded sun lounger below the club house.

Peligoni currently boasts a shoal of surf boards and a sailing flotilla consisting of the Wayfarer, a fleet of single-handed Lasers and Toppers, and two Hobie catamarans. Old hands are free, after checking with a staff member, to help themselves; absolute beginners have nothing to

fear. I can vouch for this. The sailing and windsurfing coaches hold simulator and theory sessions before anybody starts to get wet; there are plenty of life jackets to go round; rescue boats are out on the water for as long as the guests are; and when you do capsize your Laser or fall off your board, it is a positive pleasure to be in the water.

The calm of the morning is usually the time for waterskiing and kneeboarding; around lunchtime the northwesterly wind starts to pick up strength, and the sailing can begin in earnest.

By way of a break from life on the ocean wave, Vanessa takes small parties for glorious evening walks in the rugged hills at the island's northern tip. Pausing to smell the scent of basil, fennel and thyme hanging on the still evening air, she points out the best places to pick wild asparagus, or to harvest almonds and walnuts, arriving with the setting sun at the ruins of a cliff-top monastery. At this point she conjures up bottles of wine and beer, and nubs of feta cheese and olives from cold boxes, before leading her dusty convoy back to the club for a late supper.

And, of course, there is the rest of the island to explore, from the deserted, rocky coves of the north to the crowded package-holiday resorts and sandy beaches of Laganas bay in the south. But I have to confess that, apart from driving west to Kambi to watch an oxblood sunset from the cliff-top, and south to Alykes and Zakynthos town to see if the beach resorts appealed (they didn't), we stayed faithful to Peligoni.

When Mike is offering a dinghy trip to snorkel in the dazzling iridescence of the blue caves just up the coast, and Colin is volunteering to take the youngsters off for rock-jumping, and Pete is rigging up the menu for the evening barbecue, and Chris is rigging the Wayfarer, and Jon is asking if anyone wants to waterski — I'm just a girl who can't say no.



Visitors enjoy expert tuition under the blazing sun at the Peligoni Club on Zakynthos

Fact file

- The author was a guest of the Peligoni Club (brochure and details from UK booking agent Tangle Holidays, PO Box 88, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 7DP; brochure line 01243 513661, bookings 01243 511499).
- The cost of a two-week stay per person ranges from £540 (June) to £590 (August), based on four people sharing a house, including all flights, car hire and unlimited use of club facilities. A car is not essential if staying in cheaper studio accommodation.

Let's save our wilderness too

TODAY is Earth Day, at least it is in the United States; but then as the Earth is about as international as you can get, it is probably Earth Day here, too.

On this day for 25 years now, middle America has come off its stoops and out of its suburbs to raise banners and take to the streets in solidarity against the violation of the American wilderness, or what is left of it. Compared to Europe, let alone Britain, that is certainly quite a lot.

Yet here in middle Britain we don't so much as lift a pen for a letter to the editor until the chain saws are running and the graders have peeled the first scalp from the country. Even then we are all too inclined to leave it up to someone else.

In this country there is a protester class just as there are classes for chattering, managers and property owners, never mind anything so fundamental as a proletarian and bourgeoisie. It is only when Surrey twin-sets appear on a march against pit closures, or little old ladies picket ports exporting livestock, that a demonstration receives any real attention. Unless, of course, it turns violent, in which case it merely confirms everything we expected of protesters.

Even that errant teenager, Kate Aldridge, has taken to protesting against a motorway in *The Archers*.

Goodness knows there is enough that needs stopping — the destruction of England's moorlands will do for this month. Threatened simultaneously by the decline and distortion of tradi-

tional farming through indiscriminate subsidies and by the inundation of cars and hikers, they are among our wildernesses. With the summer tourist onslaught about to start, now is the time to recall the reasons why so many wish to visit them and why such country should be preserved.

These are exactly the places which could benefit from an Earth Day here. Let's celebrate them now, before the next quarry or motorway or ill-considered car park makes it to a planning application. So let's have a day when we inform ourselves of the uniqueness of these areas, and of their wildlife and the people who inhabit them, without waiting for the bulldozers to mobilise the many protesters. The more

people who understand why such places are precious, the less chance there is of anyone being called on to have to save them.

The manifesto for such a movement has just been published. *The Moorlands of England* (Key Porter Books, £14.95) analyses the ancient chemistry of geology, history, ecology and society that have made areas like Dartmoor, Exmoor, the Peak District and the Yorkshire Dales so distinctive. Adam Hopkins's erudite commentary and Dudley Winney's romantic photographs evoke some of the landscapes that define the English countryside.

I suppose the book would be classified as coffee table material, but it makes a timely point. In the meantime, have a happy Earth Day.

PETER HUGHES

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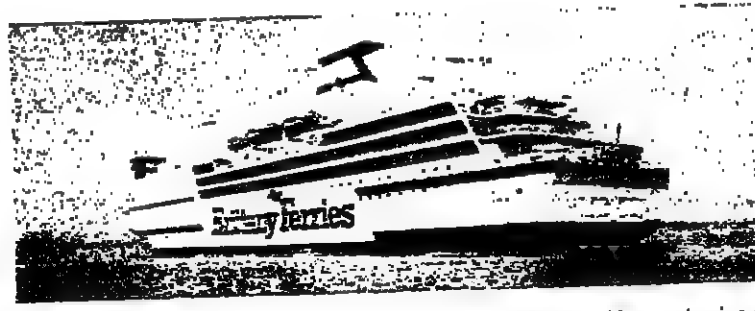
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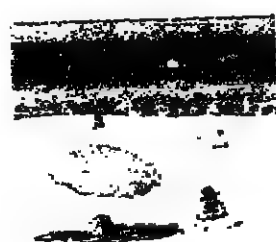
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WORD WATCH

Answers from page 23

SINDONOLOGY

(a) The study of the Holy Shroud of Turin, in which the body of Christ was reputedly wrapped, but which has now been demonstrated by carbon dating to be medieval. *Sindon* is the late Greek for a shroud. "By the start of the Second World War the Shroud had been studied more closely than for all its previous history. The investigation assumed the nature of a separate discipline and was given a name, sindonology."

SPAULTY

(a) Dry and brittle. East Anglian dialect, also spelt *spaulty* and *spaulty*. *Rudyard Kipling, Puck of Pook's Hill*, 1906: "Did he promise me a set of iron cramps or ties for the roof? They

never came to hand, or else they were spaulty or cracked."

TRINKHALLE

(a) A place at a spa where medicinal water is dispensed for drinking; a pump-room. Also, an establishment at which (alcoholic) drink is served, a refreshment stall. From the German "drinking-hall". "Chalice was waiting in the trinkhalle in an aura of stale tobacco smoke and beer."

UPSARA

(a) A celestial nymph, one of the wives of the Gandharvas (heavenly minstrels), in Indian mythology. From the Hindi *apsara*, Sanskrit *apsarasi*. *Rudyard Kipling, Barrack-Room Ballads*, 1892: "Above the dark Upsaras flew, beneath us plashed the blood."

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WEEKEND RETREAT: Escape from the rigours of city life to the simple pleasure of quiet contemplation

Farewell, cruel world

I pushed the front door open. There was no one about. There was no bell either. On the right, a door opened into what was obviously a chapel — a large room with a few rows of upright chairs and an altar at one end. In front of the altar I stood uncertainly on the threshold of my first retreat, wondering what to do. Everything was silent — a deep silence which felt different from the sudden, brief absence of noise that I was accustomed to in London.

I had thought for a long time about visiting a retreat, and when I finally decided to do so, I found there was plenty of choice. In spite of, or perhaps because of, the recession, the retreat industry is quietly booming. Some centres offer structured spiritual exercise, but many now see it as their role simply to provide a quiet space in a pressured world.

Your religious affiliation (or lack of it) is not important. After consulting the *Good Retreat Guide*, I decided that I wasn't quite up to the austerity of a Buddhist retreat (shared dormitories and, in some cases, sleeping bags on the ground), or to observing the rule of total silence as some of the Catholic ones. Nor did I want the kind of "non-religious" retreat that sounded more like group therapy.

So I had chosen Winford Manor, an ecumenical centre in an 18th-century manor house with seven acres of land in the Chew Valley, south of Bristol. "A good location," said the *Guide*, "for those who may not want their first retreat to be in a church setting that is overwhelmingly traditional."

Winford Manor was certainly not overwhelmingly traditional, as I was to discover.

I crossed the hall into the cloister, pushed open a door and found myself suddenly the

centre of attention. A woman wearing a blue dress and a nun's veil came across the big common room towards me, enquiring, with genuine concern, whether I had had a long journey and whether I was tired. She was introduced as Sister Joyce. Someone else produced a cup of tea, then hurried off to find Jim, the "guestmaster", who welcomed me warmly and showed me to a well-heated bedroom looking out over countryside swathed in winter mist.

The room was simple but thoughtfully planned. There was a long desk area under the window, an armchair, plenty of cupboards and mirrors, a good bedside light and a private bathroom with piping-hot water. Everything looked not just clean, but lovingly cared for. Someone had replaced the worn fasteners on the pretty duvet cover with hand-sewn tapes.

"I was free to rest, study, walk or visit the chapel"

A small leaflet gave details of meal-times and acts of worship and assured me that, although the members of the community would be busy with their daily prayer and household work, they always had time to talk.

In the meantime, I was free to rest, walk, investigate the library (excellent), or join the community in the chapel. There was an air of quiet purposefulness about the place, but also a feeling of relaxation. Sometimes I sat and thought, and sometimes I just sat. I particularly enjoyed the evening meditation, when everyone gathered in the warm silence of the chapel at the end of the day.

Winford Manor is a centre with a broad spiritual view. It is a Christian community of about 15 mainly lay men and women, with an emphasis on contemplative prayer and meditation. But at a Winford weekend you are more likely to hear a talk on Taoism,

psycho-analysis or folk tales than on anything specifically Christian. Its founder, Canon Peter Spink, also runs popular, if unconventional, "insight" days — explorations of spirituality which use words, music and "meditative dance".

One of these was scheduled while I was there, and I felt a tremor of apprehension at the prospect. But with Canon Spink in charge, exploring the relationship between sound and feeling, and even joining the rhythmic circle dances aimed at "co-ordination of body, mind and spirit" seemed perfectly natural things to do.

Breakfast and dinner (wholesome country food with a vegetarian bias) are eaten in silence at Winford, which at first felt strange. But gradually I realised that, with no words to hide behind, I became far more acutely aware of my surroundings, of my companions, and even of the food I was eating.

It also made me relish all the more my lunchtime talks with

Sister Joyce — a nun drawn to Winford by its "openness" — and with other visitors and members of the community, who ranged from a vicar taking time out from his ministry to a weary refugee from the city.

I certainly came away from this rather unusual retreat with a feeling of sharpened awareness. And, driving home, I found that I no longer needed to switch on the car radio to fill the silence.

Those few days of stepping back from my hectic life seemed to have a surprisingly far-reaching effect — like the ripples from a stone dropped into a deep pool.

HAZEL LESLIE

● Winford Manor, Winford, Bristol BS18 8DW (01275 412262).

● The Good Retreat Guide by Stafford Whiteaker (Rider Books, £11.99) gives details of this and many other retreats in Britain and Ireland and some in France and Spain. Costs vary, but the average is £25 to £30 per day.



Visitors to Winford Manor in the Chew Valley, south of Bristol, can enjoy long walks in the seven acres of grounds

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A WEEK ON THE NILE

Travelers are flooding back into Egypt but prices have not yet caught up with demand. During the course of 1995 we have secured some extraordinarily low prices for a superior product which have been carried over into 1996. This successful and popular journey, based on the first-class MS Ra Nile cruiser, will now be continued for the majority of this year.

This tour represents extraordinary value for money since the tariff includes all meals, transfers, guides and excursions. If you are looking for a true escape with that magical combination of culture and relaxation, then this is surely an opportunity that should not be missed.

The MS Ra
Constructed in Britain the MS Ra is a large purpose-built Nile cruiser that can accommodate up to 140 passengers. She is an excellently designed, sleek vessel offering all the benefits of modern high technology. The facilities on board include a large restaurant, lounge, bar, sun viewing deck with a swimming pool, jacuzzi, and a small health club. The cabin accommodation is bright and airy with large French-style windows which open to offer splendid views of the banks of the Nile. All the cabins are fully air-conditioned and have private bathrooms.

Itinerary
Day 1 Depart from London Gatwick in the morning for Aswan. The flight is with Excelsior Airlines and takes approximately 5 hours. On arrival in the afternoon we join the MS Ra moored in Aswan. Dinner and overnight on board.
Day 2 Depart in the early hours for Edfu. After breakfast visit the Temple of Edfu, the most complete of Egypt's temples. In the afternoon sail to Esna, a large village on the west bank where the cult of Khnum was created.
Day 3 In the morning visit the Temple of Khnum with its hypostyle halls. Return to the vessel and sail on to Luxor. In the afternoon visit the Great Temple of Karnak, once the religious centre of Thebes and Upper Egypt and was linked to Luxor by a sphinx-lined avenue. Continue to the Temple of Luxor, built by Amenophis III.
Day 4 In the morning visit the Valley of the Kings at Thebes. Situated in a secluded area on the West Bank the valley contains 62 excavated tombs, mostly royal but some belonging to members of the nobility. We then continue to the Mortuary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari which is unlike any other temple in Egypt. In the afternoon there will be a guided tour of Luxor Museum.
Day 5 Return to the West Bank and visit two further tombs before returning to the MS Ra and cruising to Edfu to moor overnight.
Day 6 In the early hours sail to Kom Ombo to see the Ptolemaic temple dedicated to two gods, Horus and Sobek. Cruise on to Aswan and in the afternoon visit the High Dam which is over two miles long, 360ft high and affords views over Lake Nasser. Continue to the ancient granite quarries of the Pharaohs to view the unfinished obelisk and on to the Temple of Philae.
Day 7 There is an optional excursion by road to the temples of Abu Simbel (659). In the afternoon sail by felucca around Elephantine Island and continue to Kitchener Island to visit the lush botanical gardens. The remainder of the day is at leisure.
Day 8 Morning at leisure. Transfer to Aswan airport for the afternoon flight direct back to Gatwick with Excelsior Airlines arriving in the evening.

Departure Dates & Prices
Nondie - per person in twin

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| 1995 May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | £430.00 |
| June 5, 12, 19, 26 | £410.00 |
| July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 | £385.00 |
| August 7, 14, 21, 28 | £430.00 |
| September 4, 11, 18, 25 | £450.00 |
| October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | £485.00 |
| November 6, 13 | £485.00 |
| November 20, 27 | £450.00 |
| December 4, 11 | £395.00 |
| December 18* | £350.00 |
| 1996 January 1 | £450.00 |
| January 8, 15 | £425.00 |
| January 22, 29 | £450.00 |
| February 5, 12, 19, 26 | £485.00 |

*Special Christmas New Year 14-night departure (7 nights cruise and 7 nights hotel and breakfast at the Old Cataract Hotel, Aswan)

Supplements per person

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|--------------------------|---------|
| Single room (May to Oct) | £95.00 |
| Single room (Nov to Feb) | £150.00 |
| Single room (Dec 18th) | £300.00 |
| Middle Deck | £45.00 |
| Upper Deck | £85.00 |

Price includes: air travel, transfers, 7 nights on the Ra, full board, excursions, entrance fees, local representative. Not included: insurance, visa/pre-arrival, overseas airport tax. All prices are subject to change.

How to Book
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THEME PARKS: Our guide to the pick of the new parks and rides on the Continent

Exploring the new worlds

Several British tour groups will next week have a sneak preview of Europe's newest theme park, the £300 million Port Aventura park at Salou on Spain's Costa Dorada, before the official opening ceremonies on May Day (May 1). These groups will be among the first to experience the 258-acre theme park based on five exotic lands, ranging from a Mediterranean sea port to a Polynesian village, and white-knuckle roller-coaster rides. These include the Dragon Khan, claimed to be the biggest (and scariest) roller coaster with the highest upside-down loop in the world.

But Port Aventura, run by the British Tussauds Group, which already operates Alton Towers, Chessington World of Adventures and Madame Tussaud's, will not have a free ride in attracting tourists. Just three years after Euro Disney opened, European theme parks are this summer offering an unprecedented number of new rides and customer-friendly attractions. Euro Disney may have had a rocky financial start, but its success in attracting almost ten million visitors a year for the past



Spain's Port Aventura, due to open on May 1, has 258 acres covering five exotic lands. They range from a Mediterranean port to the Polynesian village, above

three years has revitalised the outdoor leisure-attraction business on the Continent. Parc Asterix, for example, just outside Paris and celebrating the 25th anniversary of the cartoon character Asterix the

Gaul, is offering a special promotion with some tour operators. It allows children to visit the park free of charge, while their parents pay £150 (£20). (Information: 00 33 44 60 60 00.) Stena Sealink is also

giving away Asterix books to families who book a two-day visit including ferry, accommodation and a day in the park at prices from £194 for four.

Euro Disney's response next

month will be the unveiling of its Space Mountain ride, a roller coaster which operates in the dark and includes two 360-degree loops. It is reported to have cost the financially beleaguered theme park, now

renamed Disneyland Paris, £50 million. But Port Aventura expects to be the biggest new draw because of its novelty and the Spanish weather: it is built on the site — about an hour from

Barcelona — that Disney rejected in favour of the more temperate climate of Paris. Port Aventura hopes to attract about 2.5 million visitors this summer (of which about 350,000 will be British), putting it on a par with numbers at Alton Towers and making it one of the top attractions in Europe (excluding Euro Disney).

It is also likely to attract visitors from Mallorca when a new ferry service opens in June linking Palma with Tarragona on the Costa Dorada. The twice-daily journey will take about three and three-quarter hours.

Port Aventura believes it can avoid the traps that Euro Disney fell into. It has no hotels on site, for example, although there are an estimated 800,000 tourist beds within an hour's drive of the park, and local hoteliers claim to have spent a total of €95 million on refurbishment. An entry price of 3,800 pesetas (about £19) for adults and 3,000 pesetas (£15) for children compares favourably with Euro Disney's new summer prices of £195 (about £26) for adults and £150 (about £20) for children, although Euro Disney, with 40 attractions, has about ten more things to do than Port Aventura.

The attractions at Port Aventura bear similarities to Euro Disney. The Wild West Land echoes Disney's Frontierland, 'ever' down to the runaway train roller-coaster ride similar to Disney's famous Big Thunder Mountain.

Port Aventura also says that it will avoid Disney's mistake of overcharging on food and beverages. The Paris park has been forced to cut fast-food prices substantially to counter criticism. This means a burger and cola, for example, costs about £4 at Euro Disney, broadly in line with what Port Aventura is charging.

Where Euro Disney will score over its Spanish rival is

Aventura packages. The park is open every day from 10am until 8pm (later in the summer) until November. (Information: 0171-231 5432.)

Euro Disney is open every day from 10am until 6pm and 8pm in mid-summer. (Information: 01733 335505.) Paris Travel Service, the leading operator to Euro Disney, has just launched its new brochure with prices from £194 per person for two nights, flying to Paris, and based on two adults and two children sharing a room in the Sante Re Hotel. PTS has also, for the first time, standardised its prices so that the holiday costs the same from Britain's eight regional airports as it does from either Heathrow or Gatwick.



Asterix has his own park

Apart from Euro Disney and Parc Asterix, France also has the popular Futuroscope Park at Poitiers, 300km south-west of Paris. The theme of this park is developing new technology, although a new ride takes visitors through a history of French film-making. Some 27 British tour operators, including P&O Ferries, TravelScene and Eurosites, feature this park in their current brochures. (Information: 0181-878 3307.) Holland's Efteling Leisure Park has a new entrance and children's maze for this summer, along with a new 18-hole golf course and pavilion. The park, which attracted 40,000 Britons last year, is celebrating the centenary of Anton Pieck, whose fairytale drawings inspired the original Efteling 42 years ago. (Information: 01242 260960.)

Also benefiting from the resurgence in interest in theme parks is Germany's Phantasialand, between Cologne and Bonn, which opened in 1967. The park's newest attraction is Galaxy, a simulator ride including a giant IMAX screen similar to the Back to the Future ride at Universal Studios in Florida. (Information: 00 49 2232 36104.)

Germany's largest theme park is Europa Park, at Rust, close to Strasbourg. The park combines themed areas with high-tech rides. Just opened is an on-site hotel, called El Andaluz, and Moswin Tour is offering packages starting at £299 per adult (children £229) until the end of June. (Information: 0116 2719922.)

Independent travellers to any of Europe's theme parks can buy tickets in advance from Keith Prowse. (Information: 01232 232425.)

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Then thrill your kids with tales of how they'll meet their friends and foes. Peter Pan and Captain Hook. Aladdin and the evil Jafar.

Tell them about Sleeping Beauty's Castle, and how you'll take them to the dungeon where the dragon lives.

Don't get carried away though.

Even at Disneyland Paris, you won't have ultimate power.

You won't easily find your way out of The Queen of Hearts Maze, and you may well get lost in Alice's Curious Labyrinth. (The trick is to ignore the Cheshire Cat's directions.)

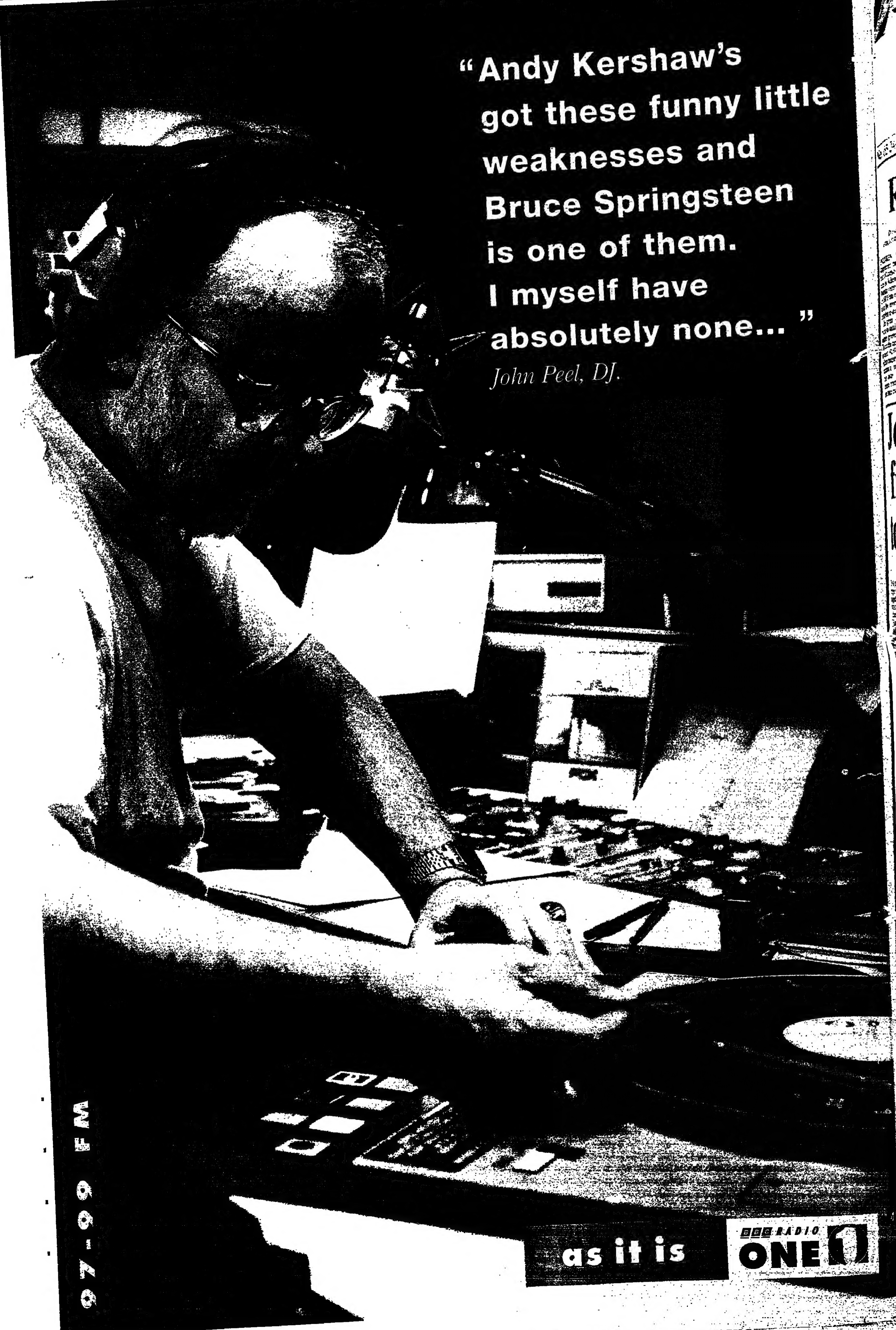
As for making a quick exit from Phantom Manor, forget it. You'll get out when we decide to let you out.

Disneyland
PARIS

*Prices quoted in hotel on a family of four (2 adults and 2 children under 12) sharing one room at the Hotel Santa Fe. Subject to date of arrival and availability. †Disney Passports are on sale at the gate and at Disney stores. Note: prices for 3-9 year olds.

| Country | No City/Town | Information | Adult/Child |
|---------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|
| FRANCE | | | |
| Euro Disney | Paris | 01733 335 505 | £26/£10 |
| Parc Asterix | Flacey | 00 33 44 60 6000 | £19/£13 |
| Futuroscope | Poitiers | 0181 878 3307 | £19/£14 |
| Nausicaa | Boulogne | 00 33 21 30 9999 | £6/£4 |
| SPAIN | | | |
| Port Aventura | Salou | 0171 231 5432 | £19/£15 |
| HOLLAND | | | |
| Efteling | Kastelen | 01242 260960 | £11/£9 |
| Dolfinarium | Harderwijk | 00 31 3410 1604 | £7/£4 |
| GERMANY | | | |
| Phantasialand | Brahl | 00 49 2232 36104 | £19/£15 |
| Europa Park | Rust | 0116 271 9922 | £17/£15 |
| DENMARK | | | |
| Legoland | Bilund | 00 45 753 313 33 | £12/£10 |

* Prices vary according to currency fluctuations. † Children under 1.10m free. Opening times are usually from 9am-6pm (from 8pm in high season).



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